

Scientific events

Researching Research – Summer Schools and Workshops

Profile Area: Understanding Research

Deadline: once a year, see website

As part of the initiative „Researching Research“, the Volkswagen Foundation offers funding for workshops and summer schools that aim to reflect, combine, and experiment with the various methodological approaches or theoretical challenges in the area of research on research.



Research Area: Disciplines conducting research on research



Funding Type: Summer schools and workshops



Target Group: Researchers at German universities or research institutions, international co-applicants possible



Events aim to address young researchers in Germany

1 Objectives

By funding research on research, the Volkswagen Foundation aims to support the creation, reflection and strategic application of knowledge about the realm of science. With this it seeks to promote an open, inclusive, and diverse research culture and thus to generate positive effects on the future research system.

Therefore, the Foundation offers funding for workshops and summer schools that aim to reflect, combine, and experiment with the various methodological approaches or theoretical challenges in the area of research on research. Respective events are meant to introduce early career researchers from various disciplines to research on research and to enhance the participants' skills and knowledge in this area. The funding scheme is designed to strengthen research on research as an interdisciplinary and methodologically diverse research field and to build up and expand respective expertise, especially among early career researchers in Germany.

2 Scope of Funding

The program is open to all scholars from diverse disciplinary backgrounds working on questions or topics relating to research on research. Hence, it also addresses researchers who are not a priori anchored, e.g., in Science and Technology Studies or Higher Education Studies, but who are dealing with questions around the structure and functioning of research and the research system. It is, however, expected that the topic or subject of the proposed event builds on current discussions, developments and trends in the area of research on research and acknowledges the state of the art, also in international perspective.

Funding will be provided for workshops and summer schools which offer opportunities for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers to acquire additional expertise, methodological skills, and knowledge about ways of working perspectives and insights that are crucial for further development of the research field. Events primarily addressing more experienced researchers may also be supported if a clear and convincing explanation is provided. It is possible to apply for funding for a single event or a series of events with up to three events that build on each other thematically. The event must take place in Germany; however, inclusion of international researchers as co-applicants or lecturers is explicitly welcomed.

In order to ensure a productive and inspiring working atmosphere, the group of participants should be limited to 35 persons, including lecturers. Normally, a workshop will be held for two to three days and a summer school for up to ten days. The intended participants should reflect the multidisciplinary character of the research field.

Generally excluded from funding are summer schools or workshops within established event series or regularly recurring meetings, follow-up or new versions of previous events, or the continuation of funding for an event series previously supported by another funding body. Likewise excluded from funding are events with pro-rata funding from another funding body or activities within the framework of Research Training Groups, Clusters of Excellence or coordinated funding from other sources.

This is not an open topic program to fund scientific events; proposals missing a link to research on research cannot be considered for funding.

3 Application and Selection Procedure

The program addresses researchers of all career stages from postdoc level onwards based at universities or research institutions in Germany. A joint application with international researchers is possible.

3.1 Overview

Proposals may be submitted once a year; upcoming application deadlines are announced on the Foundation's website. To allow applicants to plan and organize logistics well in advance, the date for the event ought to be set at least nine months after the application deadline. Generally, applicants will be informed about the funding decision three to four months after the deadline.

3.2 Procedure

Proposals will be evaluated by a small committee comprising members of the Foundation's office and external experts. Amongst others the following criteria will be considered:

- Reflection of current trends and developments in the field "research on research".
- Discussion of methodological or theoretical challenges.
- Appropriate composition of the group of participants.

4 Information on the Application

4.1 Our Funding Platform

Applications have to be submitted via the Volkswagen Foundation's [funding platform](#). All templates (CV, expenditure plan, etc.) are available for download on the funding platform and on the website for the respective programme announcement. Please only use the templates available for download there when submitting your application.

It is important that all applicants (PI, co-PIs, etc.) register early on in the process. Co-applicant(s) can only be invited to work on an application if they have registered.

For further support please contact support@volkswagenstiftung.de.

4.2 Information on Enclosures

All application documents listed below must be submitted in English (.pdf).

4.2.1 Project Description

Please use the template available for download at the funding platform and on the website for the respective programme announcement. Please adhere to the page respectively word limit.

4.2.2 Programme for the event

Please highlight the topics to be discussed and chosen formats for presentations and teaching. Please add a preliminary list of speakers indicating who already confirmed participation.

4.2.3 Expenditure Plan

Please use the Excel template available for download at the funding platform. It is not possible to upload and use other Excel sheets. For instructions on how to fill in the template, please refer to the respective help sheet.

Please note that funding is only granted to one institution, which is why you should submit a joint budget plan even in case of multiple applicants.

Funds may be requested to cover the following types of expenses:

- Accommodation and catering costs, rent of premises.
- Travel expenses of participants.
- Childcare costs during the event.
- Costs for technical or personal support for participants with physical disabilities.
- Budget for graduate or undergraduate research assistants to support the preparation and implementation of the event.
- Up to 500 euros for material expenses (e.g., working materials).

The following costs cannot be covered:

- Costs for scientific personnel, coordinators or administrative staff.
- Cost for publications like monographs or edited volumes.
- Cost for honoraria and lecture fees (in exceptional cases, an expense allowance may be requested for speakers outside academia, public administration or business, e.g. self-employed persons).
- Expenses for accompanying persons.
- Expenses for participant from industry.
- Costs for social programs.
- Lump sum for overheads costs.

4.2.4 Curricula Vitae

Please submit the curricula vitae of all applicants in tabular, narrative form, using the template available for download at the funding platform and on the website for the respective programme announcement.

4.3 Further Information

4.3.1 Open Science

The foundation is committed to Open Science ([Open Science Policy](#)). Thus, we expect that results will be published open access and that data generated will be made available for scientific use following the FAIR principles via recognized repositories (see [NFDIs](#), [re3data](#), and [RI-sources](#)).

4.3.2 General Information

The foundation cannot be held responsible for any obligations entered into prior to the receipt of grant approval.

Applications that have been or are intended to be submitted in this or a similar form to another funding organization will not be processed by the foundation. Applications that do not meet the formal requirements will not be considered for review. The foundation can only award funds to scientific institutions.

5 Contact

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6 Further Information

- [Website VolkswagenStiftung](#)
- [Website “Researching Research: Summer Schools and Workshops”](#)
- [FAQ and Service \(including download section\)](#)
- [Influence of Generative AI on Research and the Volkswagen Foundation’s Funding Activities](#)
- [Recommendations for Sustainable Travel](#)