

Experiment! – In Search of Bold Research Ideas: Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What is the funding rate in ‘Experiment!’?**
 - a. We aim to fund 30-40 projects per call.
 - b. There is no predefined funding rate.
 - c. In previous years about 500 applications have been submitted for each deadline.

- 2. Does the Foundation provide prior assessment of my idea over the phone?**
 - a. Due to the high number of applications, and in order to ensure fairness as well as equal treatment, it is not possible to request a preliminary assessment.

- 3. Is it possible to submit an application from the humanities, social sciences or economics?**
 - a. No, it is not possible.
 - b. However, scientists from these areas may participate as co-applicants in projects from science, engineering and life sciences.

- 4. Is psychology considered as part of the social or life sciences?**
 - a. Applications from the field of psychology may be submitted, if methods from the life sciences will be applied.

- 5. Can I submit an application prior to completion of my Ph.D.?**
 - a. Prior to a completed Ph.D. (including doctorate exam, rigorosum) applicants are not eligible.

- 6. Is it possible to submit a proposal from abroad (i.e. outside Germany)?**
 - a. Cooperation projects with scientists working abroad are welcome.
 - b. The leading applicant has to be employed at a scientific institution in Germany or
 - c. the leading applicant has to change to a scientific institution in Germany upon beginning of the ‘Experiment!’ funding. Please submit in this case a statement by the head of the hosting group.
 - d. A status as guest or alumni of an institute in Germany cannot replace a leading applicant currently being employed at this or another institute in Germany.

- 7. Can multiple scientists file an application?**
 - a. Cooperation projects (may be interdisciplinary) are welcome.
 - b. In general, more than 2 co-applicants do not seem reasonable, but yet are formally possible.
 - c. Co-applicants have to be invited by the leading applicant via the electronic application system.
 - d. The Foundation’s correspondence will be held with the leading applicant. The grant recipient for all partners involved is the leading applicant’s institute.
 - e. The grant recipient forwards any correspondence or funds to the corresponding co-applicants and is responsible for the final statement of account.

8. Can the proposal consist of more than 1000 +/- 100 words?

- a. No, your text is restricted to 1000 +/- 100 words, even if it results in less than 3 pages.
- b. The Foundation's pre-defined headings are not counted.

9. How should references be dealt with in the proposal?

- a. References may be dispensed, but are not forbidden.
- b. Citations of the applicant's own work are not allowed (application anonymity).
- c. References have to be included into the word limit of 1000 +/- 100.

10. Why is it not possible to file multiple applications from the same working group / institute?

- a. The institutes are best placed to prioritize the proposed research ideas. You are in a better position to perform this task rather than the Jury or the Foundation.

11. Is a budget plan required?

- a. A binding budget does not have to be submitted.
- b. A planned budget breakdown has to be specified in the electronic application system (requested funding total and its breakdown to the given categories).

12. Which documents will be forwarded to the Jury?

- a. Anonymous three-page proposal
- b. Anonymous self-assessment
- c. CVs, budget information, any institutional statement, and unrequested additional information will not be forwarded to the Jury.

13. How many reviewers will evaluate my application?

- a. There will be no conventional reviewing procedure. The Foundation will pre-select a shortlist of approx. 120-140 proposals, which will then be reviewed by an international and interdisciplinary jury of scientists.

14. Can I obtain feedback, if my proposal has been rejected?

- a. Due to the high number of applications, it is not possible to give any individual feedback.
- b. Reasons for the rejection will not be communicated.

15. Is it possible to submit a revised version of an application that has formerly been rejected?

- a. No. The funding initiative "Off the Beaten Track" is not open for rejected topics either.
- b. You are welcome to submit a completely new idea for the next deadline.