"Original – isn’t it?” New Options for the Humanities and Cultural Studies

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Do I need to have a doctorate to be eligible to apply?**

   All applicants must already have a doctorate to be eligible to apply.

2. **Do all applicants have to be employed by a German university or research institution?**

   Funding line 1 ("Komm! ins Offene... "): Applicants not yet employed by a German university or research institution have to submit a statement from the prospective institution. The statement has to confirm that the applicant will be employed by the institution for the duration of the project and that the institution is willing to administer the grant. It has to be signed by the head of the department.

   Funding line 2 ("Constellations"): The main applicant of the research team has to be employed by a scientific institution in Germany or a respective statement from a host institution has to be submitted. Foreign scientists are welcome to participate as co-applicants in projects within this funding line.

3. **Do all applicants have to be from different institutions in funding line 2 ("Constellations")?**

   No.

4. **Can I apply within this funding initiative when I already receive funding elsewhere (such as ERC-Grant, Freigeist Fellowship, etc.)?**

   In case the applicant receives funding from another funding agency, the application submitted at the Volkswagen Foundation has to be separated from the project or work already funded. Moreover, the application has to show that the applicant will have the time to work on the project.

5. **Will applications from the social sciences and other scientific disciplines be accepted?**

   This funding initiative is basically designed for research in the humanities and cultural studies. In funding line 1 ("Komm! ins Offene... ") however, applications from social scientists working on theoretical projects are also welcome. In funding line 2 ("Constellations") scientists from the social sciences as well as from the life, natural and engineering sciences are welcome as project partners. In both funding lines, projects involving empirical studies, data analysis, or interviews cannot be funded.

6. **Is a budget plan required?**

   Please enter an approximate budget plan in the application system. In case you apply for personnel costs, please specify if the costs are for your own position, a substitute...
or other staffing. In funding line 2 please enter the budget plans for each applicant separately.

7. **How may the funds be used?**

Funding can be used in a flexible manner to cover the costs of resources and staffing. This could include costs arising from the integration of project partners within Germany and abroad, research stays at outside institutions, workshops or the costs of employing a deputy during an additional research semester. Translation costs may also be applied for. In case you apply for a substitute for your position or reduction of your teaching load please check prior to submitting your application if this is feasible according to the respective administrative rules.

8. **Do I need to have a firm commitment of a publisher for my essay before submitting the application?**

No. In the Self-Assessment Sheet you only need to state, where you intend to publish your essay/treatise (funding line 1) or article/book (funding line 2).

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

No.

10. **Can I submit more than one application by a deadline?**

No.

11. **Can I be involved in more than one application as a main applicant or as co-applicant by a deadline?**

No.

12. **Can I submit an application that I have submitted to other funding agencies at the same time?**

No.

13. **Does the Foundation provide prior assessment of my idea?**

It is not possible to request a preliminary content-related assessment, since this is part of the selection procedure. Only a feedback with regards to formal aspects and the fit of the idea into the funding initiative can be provided.

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

Due to the high number of applications it is not possible to give any individual feedback. The reasons for the rejection will not be communicated.