

Open Up – New Research Spaces 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?

The main applicant of the research team has to be employed by a scientific institution in Germany. Foreign scientists are welcome to participate as co-applicants.

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.

3. Do all applicants have to be from different institutions?

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. However, applications from social scientists working on theoretical projects are also welcome. Scientists from the social sciences as well as from the life, natural and engineering sciences are also welcome as project partners. Projects involving empirical studies, data analysis, or interviews cannot be funded.

6. Is the Volkswagen Foundation interested in a project on the topic XY?

The funding initiative "Open Up" does not have any thematic restrictions. Applications on any topic can be submitted as long as they comply with the criteria of this funding initiative.



7. The application text and the self-assessment have to be submitted in an anonymized form. I have written important works on the topic of my application. Can I cite my own work within my application text?

Please ensure that your application is written in a way that no conclusions can be drawn on the applicant, the career level, or the institution. If you want to cite your own work, please do so as if you would cite another author (not: “the author of this application has already published on this topic.”).

8. 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 or a substitute. Please enter the budget plans for each applicant separately.

9. By when does the application have to be submitted?

The deadline for submission of applications will be announced on the website. On the day of the deadline applications can be submitted until 11.59 pm CET via the Volkswagen Foundation’s electronic application system.

10. 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.

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

No. You can, however, submit an application on a new topic.

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

No.

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

No.

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

No.

15. 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.



16. Will I know if my application has been shortlisted for review by the external jury?

Until the final decision by the Board of Trustees of the VolkswagenFoundation has been made, no information can be given on the review status of individual applications.

17. 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.

18. Will there be another call for this funding initiative?

Calls are planned annually. Please take a look at the website for the next deadline.