Frequently Asked Questions

Funding line 1: Summer schools and workshops

1. Can I apply for funding from a non-German university?

   To be eligible to apply for funding from abroad, you need to find a partner who is based at a German university or research institution. This person will have to act as the main applicant and receive the grant in his/her name, as the Foundation can only award grants to institutions in Germany.

2. What would be the earliest possible date for a summer school/workshop?

   Decisions on the proposals will most likely be communicated in November. To allow ample time for the final organisation (and e.g. travel arrangements, etc…), the earliest possible date for any event is spring 2017.

Funding line 2: International cooperation of postdoctoral scholars

1. Can applicants of all nationalities apply?

   Yes, the funding scheme is open to early-stage researchers of all nationalities. However, one of the postdocs (the main applicant) must be based at a university or research institution in Germany. This set-up is non-negotiable.

2. How is the three-year period since completion of the PhD calculated?

   This call addresses early-stage postdocs who finished their PhD after 15. June 2013 and before 15. June 2016. To be eligible to apply, the PhD needs to be completed within this time (i.e. submitted and defended - the date of the defense/viva is decisive). Parental leave (documented periods) will be taken into account.

3. Is it possible to submit an application before the formal completion of the doctorate?

   Generally, the PhD certificate is required for an application. In very exceptional cases, the certificate may be submitted later, e.g. when your defense is scheduled only shortly after the deadline.

4. Can a senior researcher be included in the project?

   A core objective of this call is to contribute to the capacity development of junior researchers in this field. Senior researchers can only be involved as additional advisors. Funding for personnel expenditure or honoraria for senior advisers cannot be granted. However, travel costs for joint workshops/meetings can be covered.
5. Can I include PhD and/or master students?

Personnel expenditure for student assistants can be applied for. However, funds for PhD students are not granted, as it is not envisaged that PhD students are included in these projects.

6. Can we include partners from the humanities?

Yes. Involvement of partners from the humanities is possible, but a social scientist is required nevertheless.

7. What is the basis for calculating the personnel funds?

**Germany**: The position is assigned to salary group 13 of the “Tarifvertrag für den öffentlichen Dienst der Länder (TV-L)” (collective labor agreement of civil service in Germany) or comparable labor agreements applied at the respective institution. Please check with your university/institute’s administration for the correct amount (“Arbeitgeberbrutto”).

**Abroad**: The personnel costs abroad should be based on the local standards for postdoctoral researchers in the respective country. If you can, please provide evidence.

8. Does the Foundation grant overheads?

No, overheads are not covered.

9. Can the research team comprise of more than four members if some work part-time only?

The number of postdoctoral scholars involved in a project is limited to four - independent of their involvement as either part- or full-time researchers. This limit is related to a “manageable” number of people for an international postdoc project at this career level. In general, it is possible to apply for part-time positions though.

10. Can the research team include two researchers from the same country?

Yes, it is possible to include two researchers from the same country - if it’s at least a team of three. However, multinational networks are certainly encouraged. The involvement of at least one partner from Germany is non-negotiable.