

**This funding initiative has been finished! Information 87  
An application is no longer possible. for Applicants**

## Funding Initiative

# Schumpeter-Fellowships for Future Leaders in Business Studies, Economics, Law and the Social Sciences

### Deadline

**August 1**

### Contact

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Sciences  
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### Volkswagen Foundation

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## 1. Background

Experience gained from prior funding has revealed a considerable demand on the part of young researchers aspiring to positions as professors and leaders in the fields of business studies, economics, social sciences and law. Therefore, the Foundation has decided to offer long-term support for young researchers who have completed **outstanding PhDs** and who display the **potential for leadership positions**, both within and without the sphere of academia.

The fellowship is named after Joseph Alois **Schumpeter** (1883 – 1950), an Austrian-born jurist and economist whose works greatly influenced the fields of sociology and political science, too.

## 2. Objectives

The funding is aimed at junior researchers who – either singly or in small research groups – want to break new ground in their subject and whose research projects, due to their **complexity** or high **risk**, from the outset clearly reveal the need for **longer working horizons**. This may include projects which seek to sound out and to break through the **boundaries of their own discipline** from “within”. It may also include projects which depart from the mainstream by means of collaboration **beyond customary combinations of disciplines**, hence seeking to contribute in subject or methodology to a new orientation of the respective research field.

### 3. Potential Candidates

The target group encompasses junior researchers with outstanding PhD results (at least “magna cum laude”) and who can be expected to be able to make a substantial **contribution to the international discourse**, too. The PhD should not be older than five years. The main addressees are scholars in the disciplines of business studies, economics, jurisprudence, and social sciences although **participation** in the respective projects on the part of a **thematically bordering discipline is also possible**.

### 4. Funding Possibilities

The funding provided comprises the cost of remuneration for the applicant in accordance with the German civil service pay scale as well as for up to two partners or members of staff, who may be PhD students, and for necessary non-personnel costs. Moreover, **workshops** for discussion and evaluation of project development and results as well as **research stays in Germany and abroad** can be funded, in particular at **institutions of other disciplines which are important for the research topic**. The maximum amount of funding per project is EUR 600,000 for a period of five years. Subsequent to a positive evaluation of the project in the fourth year it may be possible to agree to an extension for **further three or even up to a maximum of five years**. Funding will be made available for between eight and ten projects per year.

### 5. Submission of Applications and Evaluation

The deadline for applications is August 1 in any year. Applications may be submitted either in German or in English and must be accompanied by a **firm commitment** on the part of a university or other research institution to act as host institution. The Foundation will fund the direct costs of the project, but it expects the host institution to make a **significant contribution**, for instance by provision of infrastructure such as rooms, computers and assistants.

Moreover, evidence must be provided of how the project is to be **integrated within current research** being conducted at the institution and which stimuli and perspectives are to be expected for the respective research unit. It is furthermore expected that the **fellows will participate in university teaching** by delivering two to (max.) four hours of lectures per week.

**Applications** accompanied by all necessary supporting documents must be submitted **both electronically** by e-mail and in **hardcopy** by post. The electronic version should contain not more than six data files as a maximum in the following order:

#### Application form

Applications prepared according to the application form (available at the download centre of the Volkswagen Foundation's homepage) should be submitted as hardcopy as well as in electronic format (application and each appendix as **separate pdf-files**) to the Foundation's office.

- Brief and concise title of the project
- German summary of one page
- Detailed description (the international state of the art, objectives of the investigation, substantiation of research, approach, methods, hypotheses, experiences in and possibilities for interdisciplinary cooperation, expected results)
- Stages of research, including working schedule and timing
- Success criteria for a later evaluation
- Intended recipient of funding (institution, name, address)
- Details of how the applicant will be integrated into academic teaching
- Information concerning the submission of the application or thematically similar applications to other funding bodies
- Listing and justification of required **personnel** and **running costs** (travel, postage, telephone, copies, etc.), and **non-recurring costs** (equipment, literature).

→ **not more than 20 pages maximum (type size 12)**

As an appendix should be added:

- References
- Curriculum vitae and list of publications
- Copy of PhD award
- Declaration on the part of the hosting institution, that they are prepared to integrate the applicant, to administer the funds for the project, and to make a **significant contribution**, for instance via the provision of infrastructure such as rooms, computers and assistants
- An explanation on the part of this institution as to how the project supplements existing work and which future expectations for the research unit are connected to it
- (where applicable) Declaration of a research institution of another discipline expressing preparedness to host the applicant for a research stay (recommended for **applicants with no previous experience of cross-disciplinary research**)
- Not more than three relevant publications

There will be a **two-stage selection procedure**. First, a short list will be compiled on the basis of a written assessment of all the submitted applications. The short-listed candidates will then be invited to **personally present** their project proposals to an international and interdisciplinary panel of experts.

## 6. Information

The Foundation can provide funds only to **academic institutions**. Applicants who are not members of universities or known research institutions should also supply details on legal status, statutes, trustees and boards, charitable status, budgeting and auditing of the respective institution. If available, applicants are required to supply an annual report or a general description of their institutions.

**Applications from abroad** will be accepted if the research project is hosted by a German scientific institution.

The foundation is unable to process applications that have been submitted in identical or similar form to another funding body. The Foundation also does not pay for obligations which have been entered into prior to the receipt of the grant letter.