

Research Cooperation Lower Saxony – Israel

(As of January 26, 2021)

Next deadline ~~18 February 2021~~ → **POSTPONED: 11 March 2021, 12 pm**
Proposals from the **Humanities and Social Sciences**

I. Objectives of the funding program

The Ministry of Science and Culture of Lower Saxony and the Volkswagen Foundation allocate grants for joint research projects between researchers at universities or research institutions in Lower Saxony and in Israel¹. In continuation of existing cooperation efforts applications from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem or the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology – in Haifa are especially welcome.

The objective of this program is to promote outstanding scientific cooperation projects. The cooperation has to be justified coherently and explained in its design. To set impulses for new collaborations and to enable possibly long lasting academic exchange especially scholars and scientists at an early career stage are encouraged to apply.

The funding program addresses different disciplines (Humanities and Social Sciences; Biological and Life Sciences as well as Medicine; Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering Sciences) in different years. The current call for application invites proposals from the **Humanities and Social Sciences**.

It is possible to apply for interdisciplinary projects. The thematic and/or methodological focus of such projects has to lie in the disciplines addressed in the given year. This focus has to be substantiated by the applying consortium.

¹ For a list of eligible institution please read the FAQs on this [website](#).

It is intended to arrange a status symposium for all the grantees during the second half of the respective calls' funding period. This symposium will provide due space for the presentation of the research projects and their results so far. At the same time it will allow the project participants to network and to exchange experiences in terms of content and organizational issues of project management.

II. Funding conditions

Funding is provided for scientifically outstanding projects which follow a truly original idea and for which the additional benefit of a cooperative approach can be clearly accounted for from a scientific point of view. This requires an objective that enables the project participants from both countries to favorably combine their competencies and research experiences. The joint scientific work including e.g. research visits and/or the organization of joint events is therefore of particular importance. The set-up of new cooperations within the framework of this funding programme is possible and appreciated.

Applicants must hold a PhD (or equivalent). Applications from scholars and scientists at an early career stage are encouraged.

III. Type, duration and volume of funding

All direct costs for personnel, consumables, equipment and travel necessary to conduct the project may be applied for. The maximum grant is up to 300.000 EUR for a maximum funding period of three years. Overheads cannot be covered.

If positions for PhD students are applied for, they have to be calculated according to at least 0.65 % TV-L 13 for a period of three years (for positions at an institution in Lower Saxony)²; deviations have to be justified. In Israel, an equivalent salary applies according to local standards.

² Please calculate with the Ministry's personnel rates for academic staff (see [website](#), download column on the right: [Download \(PDF\)](#)). The Foundation's personnel rates (as specified in the electronic application system) are not applicable here.

IV. Application

Applications have to be submitted by the lead applicant in Lower Saxony online via the Volkswagen Foundation's [electronic application system](#)³

up to **11 March 2021**⁴ 12:00 pm CET.

In this call, **multiple applications** by one applicant are **ineligible**.

Applications must contain the following information and documents:

Applicants must complete the relevant **forms** posted on the Application Portal, provide details on the applicants, the recipient of funds (academic institution in Lower Saxony), title, time frame, costs (one budget for the Lower Saxon applicant and one for the Israeli co-applicant), as well as a legally binding declaration.

Attachments (PDF-Files only):

1. Cover letter (optional)
2. **Proposal description** in English, max. 15 pages (please use the **template** available as download on the website of the [Volkswagen Foundation](#))
3. **Justification of the budget**
4. **Short CVs**, including the 10 most important publications (max. 2 pages / applicant); links to ORCID, research gate, google scholar or similar profiles – if existing – are welcome
5. **Statement of the recipient of funds**, i. e. the academic institution in Lower Saxony (please use the – German – **form** available as download on the website of the [Volkswagen Foundation](#) and upload the document as “Additional Supplement”)

³ For practical information on the electronic application system see page 5.

⁴ For projects from the Humanities and Social Sciences

The applications will be reviewed comparatively by a **review panel**. There will be no written reviews for the individual applications. A funding decision can be expected about **8-9 months** after the deadline. Please note that due to the comparative review no detailed feedback on the proposals will be provided.

Applications once rejected cannot be re-submitted, neither in revised form.

Please also consider the related FAQs on the [website](#) of the Volkswagen Foundation.

Electronic Application Made Easy – Practical information

The Volkswagen Foundation will only accept proposal outlines and applications via its electronic application system portal.volkswagenstiftung.de. Please note that only registered users of the electronic application system have access to application data, can submit applications and receive corresponding e-mail messages. Hence, it is required for applicants with project responsibility to register oneself or to ask a co-worker to register in his/her name with the proper e-mail address.

Please follow the next steps to compile and submit your application:

1. If you are a new user please **register** at the application portal with your name, your e-mail address and your own password. When registering you will be asked about your work address details. Subsequently, you must **activate** your account using the link sent by e-mail. If you already have a user account you can immediately **log in** using your e-mail address and password.
2. Click on “**new application**” to select the corresponding funding initiative (here: Niedersächsisches Vorab → Research Cooperation Lower Saxony – Israel), the application type (here: proposal), the grant-receiving institution, and the language.
3. As lead applicant please **invite all co-applicants**. After successful registration, they receive an authorization in the application portal to process the forms and enclosures of the selected application. In addition, **separate budget plans** are generated for your co-applicants. To agree upon a completed application, the application can be **blocked** in order to protect it from changes.
4. Having completed the first two steps – and any time later on – you can interrupt or save the application and return to it, logging in or out at any time.
5. Please check whether the **pre-filled data** on the applicant are correct. We need the **application data** (e.g. project title, duration) and the **budgets’** details; please complete the relevant forms. Please note that by

pressing the “**save**” button you do not transfer any data to the Foundation. You are able to revise all data up to the time you actually submit your application. Please don't forget to read and **accept** the **legal statement**. If you wish you can generate a PDF of the filled-in forms for verification and for your filing.

6. Under “enclosures” you should **upload** all the items listed on the checklist on the preceding page. Only **PDF** files are accepted. You can make changes to all files up to the time you actually submit your application.
7. Once your application is complete, please **submit** it **electronically**.
8. In the course of processing your application the Foundation might request additional information. Click on “**new supplement**” to upload and submit the respective files. This can also be done by co-applicants and not only by the lead applicant.