

Information Sheet: Bielefeld Young Researchers' Fund

Funding line postdocs

1. Eligibility for filing an application

Young academics from Bielefeld University who have completed or almost completed their doctorates can apply for funding. As a rule, the time when the doctorate was awarded shall not date back longer than five years, special circumstances (for example parental or caregiver leave) will, however, be taken into account accordingly. Junior professors are, as members of the group of university lecturers, not eligible to apply.

Applicants must be verifiably connected to Bielefeld University while being funded, although employment is not a prerequisite for funding.

People who are working in the field of third-party funded projects may apply for measures from the Bielefeld Young Researchers' Fund if the applied measures are not related to third-party funded projects in which the applicant is already employed. This must be clearly highlighted in the application.

Applicants must clearly demonstrate the way in which they work scientifically independent and how their own research is distinguished from the research profile of the working group in which they are involved.

2. Eligible measures

a) "Research subsidies, promotion of mobility" (maximum funding limit €5,000)

The measure is intended to fund research subsidies and promotion of mobility.

b) "Entry into third-party funded research" (maximum funding limit €15,000)

The measure is intended to facilitate the preparation for third-party funded applications by young academics. The applicants must specify the content of the intended application for third-party funds, where and when it must be submitted and how the applied measures of the Bielefeld Young Researchers' Fund will contribute to a successful application.

c) "Career bridge Doctorate- Postdoc" (maximum funding limit €26,000)

In order to finance the costs of living during the "transition period" after earning a doctorate, young academics without employment/scholarships can apply for a postdoctoral scholarship (monthly amount 2,000 €) for a period of up to 12 months. Additionally, a child benefit supplement of €250 per child will be paid. The scholarship can be increased by the faculty/working unit to a maximum amount of €2,500. You may take employment for a maximum of 8 hours a week. However, the scholarship cannot be granted if you receive a different kind of funding for the same purpose and the same period.

Career bridge Doctorate – Postdoc aims at supporting the application for third party funding of your corresponding existing position or group of junior scientists and therefore, in order to prepare your application for third-party funding, you can also apply for research aid and measures for the promotion of mobility alongside the scholarship.

3. Eligible expenditure

	Measure a) (up to €5,000)	Measure b) (up to €15,000)	Measure c) (up to €26,000)
Material costs for special purchases/small equipment which can not be provided through basic facilities of the work environment or financed through other project funds. It should be adequately justified why there is no other option for financing and why the purchase is necessary for the intended project.	ok	ok	ok
Travel expenses for a) Mobility and network provisions, for example visiting or receiving visits from scientific supervisors. b) Short stays at foreign institutes. c) Participation in conferences or similar events, with justifications why no other options for financing, for example the DAAD, can be used.	ok	ok	ok
Assistant costs The specific responsibilities of assistants must be specified.	ok	ok	ok
Childcare or carer expenses which exist due to the applicants' mobility.	ok	ok	ok
Expenses for further education measures which are carried out for scientific qualification.	ok	ok	ok
Postdoctoral scholarships amounting to €2,000 for a period of up to 12 months. The scholarship can be increased up to €2,500 by the faculty/working unit.	---	---	ok

Each person can only apply for funds within one measure, the individual maximum funding ceiling applies to the individual measures. Funds for assistants, daily subsistence costs and accommodation costs must be oriented in accordance with standardised budgetary allowances.

NON-eligible expenditure

- basic equipment of the working group in which the intended research project is to be carried out
- consumption costs and printing costs
- consumables
- office equipment

4. Deadline for application and start of the funding period

For each financial year in question, two rounds of funding are designed to take place, the deadlines for application are **15 April and 15 October**. A decision on the funding rounds is intended to be made by the end of June or end of December respectively.

For the funding round of 15 April the earliest date the measures would start is 1 July and will have to have started by the end of that year. For the funding round of 15 October the earliest starting date will be the 1 January of the following year and they will have to have started by 30 June of the following year. In general, the measures should be completed within 12 months. Please adjust the deadline for your application to the Bielefeld Young Researchers' Fund so that you fulfil the requirements at the start of the funding period.

5. Assistance on applications

The application form for funding in the framework of Bielefeld Young Researchers' Fund can be downloaded here: <http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/nachwuchsfonds>

Care must be taken when formulating the application with respect to generally understandable formulations because they are not directed to those experts in the applicant's chosen field. Along with the project description you should design a short work and time schedule for the funding period in your application as well as highlighting the importance of the applied measure of Bielefeld Young Researchers' Fund for your future scientific career and your personal plans for the future.

In applications for measure b) "Entry into third-party funded research" and measure c) "Career bridge Doctorate – Postdoc" you are also required to state what the content of the intended application for third-party funding will be and how the measures applied for at the Bielefeld Young Researchers' Fund will contribute in successfully applying for third-party funding.

Preferably, measures will be funded which are not or only insufficiently funded by other public or private third-party programmes. The application must indicate that the applicants have investigated different possibilities for financing and where applicable excluded them.

Please submit your application as one PDF-document by email to nachwuchsfonds@uni-bielefeld.de. Please also note the list of documents to be submitted as an attachment - this can be seen in the application form.

6. Award procedure and assessment criteria

The University Commission for Research and Young Scientists deliberates on applications for funding from the Bielefeld Young Researchers' Fund. The following criteria are relevant for such deliberation:

- Scientific qualification of the applicant in relation to age of qualification, disciplinary culture and personal circumstances (amongst others consideration of parental leave, caregiver leave, handicaps, etc.)
- Previous publications
- Previous participation in scientific exchange (for example lectures, posters)
- Outstanding academic achievements; for example scholarships and awards in preceding academic career
- Final grade and length of doctorate studies
- Quality of the application and comprehensibility of the project description.
- Contribution of the applied measures in the support of scientific profiling and achievement of career goals of the applicant
- Feasibility of the described project. In addition, with measures b) and c), the expected chances of success of the applied measure in relation to the objective set
- Scientific independence of the applicant but also sufficient institutional integration of the applicant within the working group/faculty/institute.

With measure b) "Entry into third-party funded research" and measure c) "Career bridge Doctorate – Postdoc" plausibility and expected chances of success of the intended third-party funded project are additional award criteria.

A preselection of the projects which are eligible for funding is made based on the application documents. Applicants for measures b) and c) who are eligible for funding can be asked to present their project to the University Commission. Subsequently, the University Commission makes a recommendation to the Rectorate. The Rectorate decides on the allocation of funds based on the funds available and the quality of the applications.

7. Funding report

Postdocs who are supported through measure b) "Entry into third-party funded research" or measure c) "Career bridge Doctorate - Postdoc" for a period of more than 6 months have to send a short funding report after the first four months of financial support to the Vice-rector for research, young scientists and transfer. Based on this report, the decision about the continuing support for the next few months will be made. A criterion for the ongoing support is whether or not significant progress in the preparation for the application for third-party funding after the first four months of financial support can be demonstrated.

All those who have received financial support are requested to submit a brief funding report at the end of the funding period.

8. Information event on the application procedure

We are offering information meetings concerning the Bielefeld Young Researchers' Fund. Please watch the website <http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/nachwuchsfonds> for the dates of this application round.

It is recommended for the applicants to attend one of the information events.

9. Contact person

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