

Funding opportunities

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Outline

- Pre-grant writing
 - Analysis of your situation, goals?
 - Grant funding agencies
 - Invitation to participate in a large grant
 - Who will review your grant
- Most relevant
 - Einzelantrag, Auslandsstipendium, Walter Benjamin, EN group, ERC StG
- Writing the grant
 - Previous own work
 - State of the art
 - Work plan
 - Short summary

Analyze your situation

- A simplified algorithm
- It is not about absolute quality: Reviewers can only grant 10-30%, Criteria?
- Writing an ERC grant can be a waste of time ...
- During your PhD you have published ...
- in Science (1), J Neurosci (1), Neuroimage (1) and all on the same topic
 - It's your choice now, a research group (ERC/EN), but maybe the best option is to get a travel grant and do a first postdoc abroad and come back home with a group grant (or a Marie Curie Integration grant)
- In the Journal of Neuroscience (1), Neuroimage (1)
 - Again going abroad should be achievable (Walter Benjamin)
 - Try to find a good lab
 - If you want to stay in GER → Walter Benjamin or Einzelantrag (eigene Stelle + 1 PhD)
- Neuroimage (1) but you have still loads of great data to write up
 - Negotiate with your supervisor to stay until you have published another one, in the meantime prepare a grant to spend 1-2 yrs abroad

Grant funding agencies - University and UKE

- **University** stipend to finish the dissertation
 - 1 year, 1200 € BUT not a salary, i.e. no health insurance etc.
 - 25% acceptance rate, twice a year
- **UKE PhD-grant**
 - 1 year, postdoc salary, i.e. in theory (!) dissertation finished before the grant begins
 - Deadline June 30
 - starts January to April
 - reviewed by 2 UKE neuroscientists
 - critical: your scientific career plans, e.g. that you plan to write in the first 3 month a DFG grant to work in a specific lab, should be made explicit (and they should be realistic)
- **UKE grant**
 - 1 year, 60.000 €
 - Deadline April 30
 - NOT for own position anymore and only eligible if you are paid from budget
- **Hamburg Research Academy**
 - <https://www.hra-hamburg.de/en.html>
 - Links to funding data bases (DAAD, BMBF)
 - (offers courses relevant for UKE PhD program)

Grant funding agencies - DAAD, Leopoldina, Humboldt Foundation

- **German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)**
 - Grants to go abroad from Germany ONLY on German website!
 - **For PhD students**
 - 1-12 months, 2nd application possible up to 18 months
 - Short term grants for **postdocs**
 - 3-6 months – reviewed by non-experts
 - Postdoctoral Researchers International Mobility Experience (PRIME)
 - 12-months research stay abroad and a 6-months re-integration phase
 - Not for you but maybe your new science friend from a conference
 - 1-12 months, PhD students, postdocs
- **The Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina**
 - 36 month postdoc grant (similar to DFG)
 - foreign research institute (expected to return to their home country)
 - up to 7 years after PhD
 - decisions to award grants are made four times a year
- **Humboldt Foundation:**
 - **Feodor Lynen-research fellowship**
 - 6-24 months to stay abroad
 - around 25,000 potential academic hosts worldwide

Grant funding agencies - DFG

- Largest funding agency
- Funding basic and clinical research
- Quite good acceptance rates (20-30%)

- Walter Benjamin
 - 2(-3) years, only postdoctoral researchers at an early career phase are eligible
 - generally requires that the applicant changes research institutions
- Einzelantrag
 - Always possible, small bonus for first time applicants
 - Also for own position
 - Basic and clinical science
 - Usually limited to medium size project (100 – 300 k€)
- Emmy-Noether (national ERC starting grant, slightly easier)
 - Research group
 - ~1.5 Mio€ (plus hardware)
 - Can be applied for from abroad
- Heisenberg
 - Stipend or professorship
 - own position + Einzelantrag

Grant funding agencies - EU

- More competitive
- Funding basic and clinical research
- Calls (EU) or individuals (Marie-Curie, ERC)
- EU calls
 - → large cooperative grants
- Marie Curie (People program)
 - Intra-European Fellowships For Career Development (IEF) (1-2 years)
 - Career Integration Grants (CIG) (up to 4 years 25k€/a)
- ERC Starting or Consolidator (Ideas program)
 - Research group
 - StG 2-7 years after PhD 1.5 Mio€
 - CoG 7-12 years after PhD 2 Mio€
 - Internationally competitive (lower acceptance rates than DFG EN)

Grant funding agencies - others

- Some specialize in Neuroscience
- Funding basic and clinical research
- Calls (EU) or individuals (ERC)

- Schilling
 - Professorships / groups in Neurology
- Hertie
 - MS, neurodegeneration
- Volkswagenstiftung
 - Lichtenberg professorships (W2 professorships + group) comparable to EN but university has to offer permanent position
 - Often interdisciplinary programs linking humanities and neuroscience
 - Worth checking frequently

Grant funding agencies - Information

- Your supervisor
- The lab
- Your colleagues
- Internet
 - EU → Medigate
 - UKE [www.](#)
[Home](#) > [Ärzte / Wissenschaftler](#) > Förderinformationen
"extern"

Help

- Your supervisor
 - Check for a potential COI, can be tricky, but should be transparent
- Colleagues (internal, external, Alumni)
 - Some have positive experience with this type of grant → see what they have done
 - Ask them for their grant proposal
 - Talk to them about your idea
 - Ask them whether they would read your proposal (once; polished)
- External courses
 - Key question: Credentials! (have they ever witnessed the process?)
- Do not get too much input (Too many cooks spoil ...)

How important are impact or Hirsch factors?

- Interdisciplinary panels “fall back” to a unified metric
 - Impact Factor (IF)
 - BUT: Field specific (compare excellent Psychology journals with excellent Neuroscience journals)
- Within a field
 - IF of journal is roughly related to quality of the work (with outliers)
 - Author list position more important
 - Exceptions: Methodological papers
- Hirsch factor
 - Plays little role in early career grants
 - Exceptions: Methodological papers