

Principles of Funding Research Cooperation Lower Saxony – Israel

by the
Lower Saxony Ministry of Science and Culture

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I. Objectives of the funding program

The Ministry of Science and Culture of Lower Saxony allocates grants for joint research projects between universities or research institutions in Lower Saxony and (primarily) the Hebrew University of Jerusalem or the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa. This call for funding is open to all disciplines; thematic limitations do not exist.

The funding program especially aims to encourage young scientists to engage in scientific collaborations to promote and to enhance the cooperation of universities and research institutions in Lower Saxony and the Israeli universities for their mutual benefit. Explicitly encouraged are projects which may serve as a basis for larger third-party-funded follow-up activities and, thus, open up perspectives for long-term cooperation.

II. Funding conditions

Projects to be funded have to demonstrate the additional value of addressing the research questions cooperatively. Furthermore, the scientists involved in the project – both from Lower Saxony and Israel – should have relevant research experience, and combining their complementary expertise should significantly contribute to solving the research question at hand.

Whenever possible, qualified young scientists/ junior scholars should be included in the project.

Ideas for larger joint follow-up activities have to be explained in the initial application. The focus of the review process is on the scientific quality and originality of the project.

III. Type, duration and volume of funding

In principle, all costs for personnel, consumables/equipment and travel required to conduct the project may be provided. Exchange visits that facilitate joint scientific work between the project partners are of particular importance. Therefore, every project should include funds for the exchange of the scientists involved in the budget. Projects may be funded for a period of at least two and no more than three years. For each project, a total of up to € 100,000 p.a. can be requested to cover for the salaries of two scientists (0,75 TV-L 13 or comparable salary in Israel) as well as expenses for travel, additional accommodation and consumables/equipment.

IV. Application

Applications have to be submitted online via the Volkswagen Foundation's electronic application system <https://portal.volkswagenstiftung.de>

no later than 1st April of each year.

Support will not commence until 1st January of the following year.

Electronic Application Made Easy – Instructions for using the electronic application system

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 themselves or to ask a co-worker to register in their name with the proper e-mail address.

Please follow the steps to compile and submit your application:

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 **login** using your e-mail address and password.

The function **new application** starts the selection of the corresponding funding initiative (here: Niedersächsisches Vorab), the application type, the grant-receiving institution, and the language.

Now – and later on – you can interrupt the compilation of your application at any time. As required you can logout and login again.

Please check whether the pre-filled data on the applicant are correct. Furthermore, we need application data (e. g. project title, duration) and the budget. The budget shall be uploaded as PDF-file under the heading “Other Enclosures”. You are asked to enter all information in the respective forms. Please note that the **save** button does not transfer any data to the Foundation. You are able to revise all data until the submission of your application. Please keep in mind 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.

Under enclosures you are able to **upload files** as required according to the checklist on the preceding page in the „Information for Applicants“. Only PDF files are accepted. Before submission all files can be exchanged for new versions. Once your application is complete you can **submit** it electronically to the Foundation. Additionally, it is required to generate a **signature sheet** for print-out. Please do not forget to print, sign and upload your signature sheet.

In the course of processing your application the Foundation might request additional information. The function **new supplement** is used to upload and submit the respective files.

Applications must contain (or be accompanied) by the following information and documents (PDF files):

Applicants must complete the relevant **forms** posted on the Application Portal, provide details on the applicants, the recipient of funds (target institution), title, timeframe, costs, as well as a legally binding declaration.

Attachments (PDF-Files only):

1. Cover letter (optional)
2. Short Summary in German (max. one page)
3. Short Summary in English (max. one page)
4. Project Proposal in English (no more than 15 pages max., 12 pt, 1,5 lines)

The Project Proposal should contain the following information:

- Title (significant and short, supplemented by keywords)
 - Topic, objectives and justification of the project
 - Current state of the art in an international perspective
 - Research approach, methods and hypotheses
 - Detailed work program including time schedule
 - Type and extent of the cooperation and division of tasks between the partners
 - Anticipated results
 - Relevant preceding work of the applicants
 - Brief details of the type and the extent of previous cooperation between applicants
 - Perspectives with respect to possible follow-up projects between the partners with funding from other sources
 - Funding of the project including own contribution
5. Time and work plan
 6. Justification of the budget (including own sources, e.g. utilization of available infrastructure, and possibly third-party funding)
 7. Bibliography
 8. Short CVs (1 page) and publication list of the participating scientists
 9. Binding statement of cooperation of the Israeli institution

Decisions on funding are based on the recommendations of an external peer-review.

Applications once rejected cannot be re-submitted.

- V.** The Lower Saxony Ministry of Science and Culture requires a concise joint final report on the funded project following its completion. This report should list, inter alia, the publications resulting from the project and contain an evaluation of the results including advantageous and disadvantageous circumstances influencing the project. The prospects for further funding from other funding agencies should also be described. Copies of the publications resulting from the research cooperation should be sent to the Ministry.

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