

Call for proposals

for the research programme of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities (Academies' Programme) for 2025

The Academies' Programme, the joint research programme of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities, is designed to enable long-term fundamental research in the humanities, historical legal studies, economics and social sciences. Research questions and materials in these areas which dovetail with those of certain natural sciences can also be addressed within the framework of the Academies' Programme. The central task of the Academies' Programme is the exploration, preservation and interpretation of cultural traditions of major importance for research and for societies at large.

The Academies' Programme is currently funded with approximately 73 million euros annually as part of the joint research funding provided by the federal and state governments. These funds are currently used to finance 128 projects in 188 workplaces [cf. www.akademienunion.de/en/research/project-database].

Researchers who have completed their doctorate and have institutional ties in Germany can apply (as individual applicants or together with one or more co-applicants) to one of the academies listed. In terms of focus, scope and duration, the project must meet the following requirements and criteria for applying to the Academies' Programme.

Application Requirements

- The project must be of transregional significance and in the interest of Germany's research policy.
- The application is limited to projects in the above mentioned fields.
- The proposal must be outstanding in its disciplinary or interdisciplinary relevance, has to reflect, in theme and method, the current state of research and must have potential for innovation.
- Each project must be long-term (at least 12, at most 25 years). It must be completed within its planned term. Projects need to have a modular structure, with each module to be concluded as planned and in time.
- The annual budget must be at least 120,000 euros.
- The project must involve early career researchers and it has to provide opportunities for additional qualification of its staff.
- Only those projects will be considered that cannot be carried out more expediently by a university, another research institution or any other organisation.
- The funded projects will be supervised by one or several academies; yet they can be carried out in close cooperation, if possible also internationally, with other academies, universities and non-university research institutions.
- The programme requires the inclusion of Digital Humanities methods. Hence proposals must include sound concepts and strategies for the provision of digital resources and information services as well as for digital processing and publication.

Researchers who are planning a project that meets the above requirements are requested to submit the project proposal to one of the participating German Academies of Sciences and Humanities (see below for addresses). Applicants are requested to hold an advisory meeting with their chosen academy before submitting the preliminary application.

Application procedure and criteria for application

The application procedure has two stages within a two-year cycle. First, a preliminary application must be submitted to the selected academy (approx. five pages, Arial 11 pt. font, 1.2 lines; if necessary, please ask the respective academy). The academy examines the preliminary application and the question of accepting it into its academic and organisational supervision. The applicants of the shortlisted preliminary applications will then be asked by the academy to submit a detailed application according to the criteria listed below. This finalized proposal will be evaluated by national and international peer reviewers and, if approved, submitted to the Union for inclusion in its funding programme. If the project is finally accepted, the home academy will sponsor and supervise it by a special commission.

The preliminary application must clearly sketch the project's conceptual frame, the need for its longevity and the method of implementation. The application must provide the following information:

- The applicant's name with academic degree, position and date of birth and the name of her/his research institution, faculty/department/institute, address, telephone, e-mail address
- a concise description of the project (approx. two lines)
- the subject area and special focus of the project
- a brief summary of the project and the research objective
- information on the current state of research and the applicant's own preliminary work on the topic
- a description of the project's methodology and research objective
- details on the overall duration and planned start of the project
- information on the work, time-frame and financial planning of the project; details on the modularisation of the project with regard to content and time
- information on the number and budget value of the planned staff positions and the amount of material resources required
- brief description of the affiliation of the planned project to a university or a non-university research institute; details on additional cooperation partners
- information about qualification measures for early career researchers as well as long-term programmes for further qualification for the project's older employees
- information on the staff's involvement in university teaching
- a statement as to whether a preliminary application has been submitted or will be submitted to another academy and whether funding has been or will be applied for from other sources
- submission of a Digital Humanities concept as well as a first draft of a data management plan, which should specifically include considerations on long-term digital archiving and the provision and re-usability of digital research data
- ideas for communicating the project's findings to the academic community

In addition to the preliminary application, applicants must submit CVs with a list of publications (no more than one DIN A4 page) and information on current externally funded projects.

A separate information bulletin contains instructions on the scope and the formal structure of new applications to the Academies' Programme.

Preliminary applications can be submitted immediately to one of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities. Applications from female scientists are explicitly encouraged.

The deadline for submitting a pre-proposal for 2025 is 31 January 2025.

By submitting an application, the applicant acknowledges that his/her data will be used and stored for a specific purpose in the course of the application procedure. In this context, reference is made to the relevant data processing instructions of the academies and the Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities.

Information on the Academies' Programme and currently funded projects is available at:
www.akademienunion.de and on the academies' websites.

Overview of the member academies of the Union of German Academies of Sciences and Humanities and the respective contact persons

Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften

Jägerstraße 22/23, 10117 Berlin
www.bbaw.de

Dr. Anne Kern (Leiterin Referat Akademienvorhaben)
Tel.: 030 / 20370-382 | E-Mail: anne.kern@bbaw.de

Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen

Theaterstraße 7, 37073 Göttingen
www.adw-goe.de

Dr. Jonas Maatsch (Generalsekretär)
Tel.: 0551 / 39370-32 | E-Mail: jmaatsch@gwdg.de
Dr. Marion Freerk
(Stv. Generalsekretärin und Forschungscoordination)
Tel.: 0551 / 39370-33 | E-Mail: mfreerk@gwdg.de

Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften

Alfons-Goppel-Straße 11, 80539 München
www.badw.de

Dr. Johannes Bernwieser (Stv. Generalsekretär und AbtL Forschung)
Tel.: 089 / 23031-1309 | E-Mail: bernwieser@badw.de
Dr. Benjamin Schönfeld (Forschungsreferent)
Tel.: 089 / 23031-1339 | E-Mail: [schönfeld@badw.de](mailto:schoenfeld@badw.de)

Sächsische Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Leipzig

Karl-Tauchnitz-Straße 1, 04107 Leipzig
www.saw-leipzig.de

Dr. Christian Winter (Generalsekretär)
Tel: 0341 / 697 642-15 | E-Mail: winter@saw-leipzig.de

Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften

Karlstraße 4, 69117 Heidelberg
www.hadw-bw.de

Dr. Dieta Svoboda-Baas (Leiterin Referat Wissenschaft)
Tel.: 06221 / 543-546 | E-Mail: dieta.svoboda-baas@hadw-bw.de

Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur | Mainz

Geschwister-Scholl-Straße 2, 55131 Mainz
www.adwmainz.de

Prof. Dr. Claudius Geisler (Generalsekretär)
Tel.: 06131 / 577-101 | E-Mail: claudius.geisler@adwmainz.de
Prof. Dr. Roland Kehrein (Wiss. Koordinator)
Tel.: 06131 / 577-106 | E-Mail: roland.kehrein@adwmainz.de

Nordrhein-Westfälische Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Künste

Palmenstraße 16, 40217 Düsseldorf
www.awk.nrw.de

Christiane Dusch (Generalsekretärin)
Tel: 0211 / 61 734-11 | E-Mail: christiane.dusch@awk.nrw.de

Akademie der Wissenschaften in Hamburg

Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1, 20146 Hamburg
www.awhamburg.de

Claudia Raap (Geschäftsführerin)
Tel: 040 / 42 94 86 69-22 | E-Mail: claudia.raap@awhamburg.de
Dr. Elke Senne (Referentin für Forschung)
Tel: 040 / 42 94 86 69-20 | E-Mail: elke.senne@awhamburg.de

Projektskizzen können ebenfalls eingereicht werden bei:

Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher
Leopoldina – Nationale Akademie
der Wissenschaften
Jägerberg 1, 06108 Halle
www.leopoldina.org

Franziska Hornig (Generalsekretärin)
Tel: 0345 / 47239-912 | E-Mail: franziska.hornig@leopoldina.org
Prof. Dr. Rainer Godel (Leiter des Zentrums für Wissenschaftsforschung)
Tel: 0345 / 47239-115 | E-Mail: rainer.godel@leopoldina.org

Further information on submitting applications is also available from the

Union der deutschen Akademien der Wissenschaften
Geschwister-Scholl-Str. 2, 55131 Mainz
– Koordination des Akademienprogramms –

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