

Franco-German Fellowship Programme on Climate, Energy and Earth System Research

Funding of research groups within the framework of the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement (MOPGA-GRI¹).

What are the goals of the programme?

Germany and France are jointly supporting the implementation of the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Both countries are leading the way with their coordinated German-French Fellowship Programme to promote research in the areas of climate, energy and Earth system science. Under the French "Make our planet great again" initiative, Germany and France are inviting researchers from all over the world to cooperate with German and French partners to advance sustainability research in the following fields:

1. **Research on climate change**
2. **Research for the energy transition**
3. **Research to understand the Earth system.**

Fellows of the programme will be given the opportunity to set up their own research group at a German university or research institution for a period of four years.

The programme also aims to network researchers. Germany and France will organize joint networking activities for the fellows in order to encourage networking both between fellows and with other international researchers in their disciplines. The programme intends to establish long-term cooperation schemes and sustainable networks.

Funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the programme is conducted by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

Who can apply?

Applications may be submitted by:

- Researchers who have completed their doctorate with a distinction and who have a minimum research experience of two years after completion of their PhD and an excellent record of publications and/or patents and wish to set up their own research group and realize a highly original and innovative research project at a German university or research institution of their choice over the next four years.
- The call is open to applications from both junior and senior researchers (see 'What will be funded?' below).
- Applicants must not have resided in Germany in the two years prior to the application deadline (Step 1, see below). German nationals who have been working abroad for the last two years (minimum) can also apply.

¹ MOPGA-GRI: Make Our Planet Great Again – German Research Initiative

What will be funded?

Funding measures and levels:

Funding will be provided for the establishment of research groups in the designated research areas under the leadership of the successful applicants.

- **Junior researchers:** The research project will receive up to 1 million euros for 4 years (combined value of contributions from the DAAD and the German host institution)
- **Senior researchers:** The research project will receive up to 1.5 million euros for 4 years (combined value of contributions from the DAAD and the German host institution)

Eligible Expenditures

Basically, all expenditures which are necessary or appropriate to achieve the funding purpose within the funding period are eligible.

The funding provided under this programme will cover staff expenditures (including the position of the applicant him- or herself, post-docs, doctoral students and/or technicians), as well as expenditures for materials and consumables).

Funding period:

The funding period commences on 1st March 2018 (earliest begin) and ends on 31 December 2022 at the latest. The duration of a project may not exceed 48 months.

Which subjects are eligible?

The programme is open to applications in the following subject areas:

1. **Research on climate change:**

Climate research contributes significantly to shaping social and political awareness of the challenges of climate change. Climate data and models can provide information on the extent to which the Earth's ecosystem is changing and provide the knowledge basis for decisions. The research field of climate change includes activities in the areas of monitoring, modelling and mitigation.

Priority areas of the call:

- Enhanced observation of the Earth system and the attribution of environmental and climate changes
- Further understanding of processes, interaction scales, risks and thresholds
- Improved modelling of complex Earth systems, data assimilation and predictability
- Improved understanding and estimation of the extent of future extreme events
- Mitigation and social consequences.

2. **Research for the energy transition:**

The research field "energy transition" focuses on solutions for a sustainable, secure and affordable energy supply based on renewable sources. The field includes basic research for the development of renewable generation, storage and distribution technologies as well as systems research and socio-economic aspects.

Priority areas of the call:

- New materials for the efficient generation, storage, distribution and use of renewable energy. Focus areas are solid-state batteries, hydrogen carriers, gas separation membranes, compound semi-conductors, high-temperature superconductors
- Highly innovative concepts and technical solutions for a sustainable supply of renewable energy integrating different sectors and industries (mobility, industry, households, electricity). Focus areas are energy storage and distribution (e.g. Power-to-X, high-voltage direct current technologies)
- Systemic analysis and scenarios for the energy transition including economic, ecological and social challenges both on a global scale and in different parts of the world
- Digital solutions for the smart sustainable energy system of the future; soft- and hardware for the digital transformation of energy services und markets.

3. Research to understand the Earth system:

The key question in the field of Earth system research is the analysis of the functioning and interaction of the systems and processes that determine life on Earth. The activities are therefore primarily related to basic research for an improved understanding of the Earth system (in particular marine, coastal and polar research as well as geosciences)

Priority areas of the call:

- Development of interdisciplinary standards for long-term data and assessment systems (especially in geo-modelling)
- Improved understanding of climate-related changes in mass and energy flows in the Earth system
- Monitoring and early warning system for the identification of natural and anthropogenically induced natural risks
- Assessment of human use claims in coastal areas with the objective of designing sustainable development concepts for the effective management of natural resources
- Development of innovative measurement methods and techniques for automatic and autonomous monitoring within the framework of maritime observation systems.

Application procedure and deadlines

The application procedure is divided into two steps.

- **Step 1:** Applicants will have to submit a Statement of Interest by filling in an online application form (Lime Survey). No proof of a host institution in Germany is required at this time.

Deadline (closing date of the Lime Survey): **13 October 2017, 12.00 (noon) CET.**

Incomplete applications (Statements of Interest) will be excluded from the review process.

The online application form (Lime Survey) can be accessed under the following Link:

<https://www.daad.de/survey/693554?lang=en>

The review process will be finished by the end of November and a limited number of applicants will be asked to submit a full application in Step 2.

- **Step 2:** Applicants who have been selected in Step 1 will be asked to prepare a full application together with the German host institution of their choice and submit it via the DAAD application portal.

Deadline (closing date of the DAAD application portal): **15 January 2018, 12.00 (noon) CET.**

Incomplete applications will be excluded from the selection process.

Final results will be announced in March 2018.

Which selection criteria apply?

Selection criteria

- Decisions are made by a selection committee appointed by the DAAD and composed of professors and scientists from relevant disciplines. The selection committee is supported by representatives of the BMBF, relevant project management agencies and the DAAD.
- Major selection criteria include the relevance and feasibility of the research projects (quality, originality, impact on the research field, implementation and work plan) as well as the applicant's research performance in recent years (quality and number of publications and other achievements – patents, conference invitations, prizes, successful grant applications, etc.).
The career stage will be given adequate consideration.
- Particular consideration will be given to achievements which are of direct relevance to the research area.
- Particularly eligible for funding are projects that match the priority research areas identified in the present call.
- Duplications and parallelisms with existing research projects in Germany will be avoided in order to achieve the intended stimulus to innovation in the respective research area.

Contact and further information

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Further information about the German research landscape and working in Germany as a researcher:

<https://www.research-in-germany.org/en>
http://www.research-explorer.de/research_explorer.en.html
<http://gepris.dfg.de/gepris/OCTOPUS?task=showSearchSimple>
<http://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en>

Further information about climate research in Germany:

<http://www.deutsches-klima-konsortium.de/en/startseite.html>

Further information about energy research in Germany:

<https://www.helmholtz.de/en/research/energy/>
<https://www.energie.fraunhofer.de/en.html>
<https://www.mpg.de/institutes>

<http://www.fvee.de/en/>
<https://www.kopernikus-projekte.de/>
<https://www.fona.de/en/flagship-initiative-energiewende-19691.html>

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Artikel/Energy/research-for-an-ecological-reliable-and-affordable-power-supply.html>

Further information about Earth system science:

<http://www.deutsche-meeresforschung.de/en/>
https://www.helmholtz.de/en/research/earth_and_environment/

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