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FAQ – STUDENT RESEARCH GROUPS

Is the funding for student research groups being offered once only or on a regular basis? If regularly, how often and when?

Currently, we are planning to offer funding for student research groups once every semester. We will post information about this on the Excellence Strategy website, the website for the Center of Interdisciplinary Studies and on other channels, e.g. via STiNE.

Is funding available for groups only?

Yes, a student research group must include at least 2 people.

Do all project members need to be enrolled at Universität Hamburg?

Yes.

Who is eligible to serve as a mentor?

Mentors must be professors at the University.

How can I generate credit points in the free elective area via my research project?

In the initial phase (May/June or November/December), there will be a mandatory course on student research. Here, the basics of student research will be taught, and the research projects will be individually checked for their realistic achievability and adapted if necessary. A total of 3 credit points (CP) can be achieved through preparation, participation and follow-up of the seminar.

Credit points can also be generated after the final phase of the project. Here, 1 CP can be generated if the standardized final report is submitted (approx. 5-7 pages).

It is also possible to submit a scientific project report. The scientific project reports must be read by the mentors (research associate) of the projects and then released to us. Projects that are not supervised by mentors can have their final reports evaluated by external assessors commissioned by us. Either 2 CPs (at least 10 pages) or 3 CPs (at least 15-20 pages) can be achieved.

Are there mandatory appointments as part of the funding?

A kick-off meeting is held at the beginning of the funding period. After six months, an interim meeting will be held with the head of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies. In this meeting, you will report on the current state of your research, the developments of the past months and your next steps until the end of the funding period. The purpose of the meeting is to support you in keeping to your schedule and carrying out your research project. These interim meetings are mandatory and part of the program.

Can the research also be carried out abroad in cooperation with Universität Hamburg?

The research has to take place at Universität Hamburg and may not be conducted abroad. However, we can finance travelling expenses for conferences or for research purposes in Germany or abroad.

Can the funds be combined with other sources of financing?

No, the Excellence Strategy does not allow for multiple funding sources for individual projects. However, parts of the overall project (work packages) can be defined as a microprojects to be exclusively funded by the

Excellence Strategy. These are then seen as subprojects distinct from the overall project, provided there are compelling explanations for them as such.

Is the funding available to students at the UKE (University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf)?
Yes.

What happens if applicants withdraw, e.g., because they end their studies?
The applicants agree to a contract with the funding institution for student research groups – the contractors are the members of the research group. Should a member of the research group leave, the responsibility will pass on to the remaining members of the research group. This should be an absolutely exceptional case. Students who already know at the time of the application that they will finish their studies within the project duration should not participate.

Is it possible for doctoral researchers to submit an application?
No, the funding call is for bachelor's and master's students only.

Can mentors submit their accompanying letters after the end of the application deadline?
In duly substantiated cases, the mentor can submit the accompanying letter after the application deadline. However, an assessment of the application documents can be made only when they are complete.

Why does the funding exclude final theses?
Funding is intended to support students who wish to learn more about research and gain qualifications during their studies, not at the end of their studies.

Can the research project also be conducted in English?
Yes, research projects can also be conducted in English.

When are project results due?
The final report, which summarises the results of the research project, is due 3 months after funding ends.

Can the funds also be used to organise conferences? Will the cost for a closing symposium be covered?
The funds can also be used to hold a conference or a symposium. The costs have to be checked in detail.

What kind of travel costs can be financed by the funding?
The funding can be used to finance travel and accommodation costs. Meal costs are not funded. The costs have to be checked in detail.

How specific does the financial plan have to be?
The more detailed the better (ideally with attached offer), because it makes it easier for the decision-makers to get an impression of the total expenditure.

Can devices which have been procured and covered by the research funds be kept after the project ends?
All materials and devices which have be procured remain the property of Universität Hamburg and will be returned to the coordination office at the end of the project. Consumables are excepted from this rule.

Can funds be used to attend conferences (for conference fees, travel expenses, accommodation)?
Yes, funds can be used for travel expenses for research purposes.

Can funds be used to pay for software licences?

Unless the software can be purchased from the RRZ (Regional Computing Center), funds can be used to buy software licences.

Can the submission deadline be extended?

No.

Do the 3 pages include the bibliography?

The 3-page limit is intended as a guideline only and the application proposal should not be considerably less than this. A bibliography is not part of the project description.

Does the topic have to be chosen within the context of a cluster of excellence?

No, the topic can be chosen freely.