



FAQs

Bridging Programme for the Career Entry of Female Junior Researchers

OBJECTIVE

What is the goal of the Bridging Programme?

The funding of fixed-term positions is intended to make it easier for qualified female junior researchers to enter the next level of qualification.

POSITIONS

What positions are eligible?

The funding serves to bridge the gap between

- graduation (master's degree) and beginning of the doctoral project, or
- completion of the doctorate and start of the post-doc phase.

What are the criteria to be fully met by the applicants?

Bridging the gap between	
graduation (master's degree) and beginning of doctoral project	completion of doctorate and start of post-doc phase
1. master's degree has been completed	1. application for commencement of doctoral examination procedure has been submitted
2. grant application has been submitted	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ with a position assigned by name to the female junior researcher○ applicant must have either contributed to the grant application or written it herself.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ funding period applied for must be sufficient to complete a doctorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ funding period applied for must be sufficient to complete at least two years of post-doc work
3. access to work station and equipment of an institute or a work group at Ulm University must be ensured	

Can I apply if I have already started my doctoral project?

Yes, but please note the following: „Already started“ is defined as „a doctoral acceptance agreement (*Promotionsvereinbarung*) is in place“.

In this case, for legal reasons your future employment contract must cover no less than the full period necessary to complete a doctorate.

Your academic supervisor/head of institute must agree to pay for all additional months



necessary from institutional funding sources, after the 12-month bridging period has ended. They must explicitly confirm this in their statement.

Can previously allocated staff resources be re-allocated and the bridging funding be used instead?

No. The bridging funding cannot be used to replace any other already planned or ongoing modes of funding. Bridging funding will not start before an ongoing employment contract has ended.

What is the scope of the bridging funding?

The director of the institute / head of the research group receives funding for a fixed-term position for the female junior researcher:

- Bridging the gap until the doctorate: TV-L 13 (50 %)
- Bridging the gap until the availability of the post-doc funding: TV-L 13 (65 %)

Can the parameters of the funded position be cumulated?

No. It is not possible, for example, to convert an approved 12-month position of 50% into 6 months of 100% TV-L13.

Can approved part-time positions be expanded?

Yes. It is possible to increase the percentage of a part-time position with institutional or third-party funds.

What is the funding period?

The bridging funding can be granted for up to 12 months, i.e.:

- The employment contract is issued for 12 months and remains valid even if the submitted grant application is rejected before the end of the contract period.
- The bridging funding ceases as soon as the requested grant money becomes available for the position.

How is the financing of contract extensions regulated?

If the female researcher makes use of an extension option in accordance with § 2 para. 5 *WissZeitVG* (law on fixed-term employment contracts in the science and research sector), the necessary funding for this extension must be provided by her institute.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Who can apply?

Applications are open to female junior researchers who either are already or are to be employed at a central research institution or one of the following faculties of Ulm University:

- Faculty of Engineering, Computer Sciences and Psychology
- Faculty of Mathematics and Economics
- Faculty of Natural Sciences



Can female researchers of the Medical Faculty apply as well?

No.

By which date do the formal criteria have to be met?

All criteria detailed in the call must be met in full by the last day of application period at the latest.

Which details on the submitted grant proposal must be included in the application for bridging funding?

- confirmation of receipt of submission by third-party funding provider (or informative screenshot of online submission portal)
 - name of person applying for grant proposal
 - date of submission
 - project number, if known
 - project duration applied for
- detail from grant proposal which contains the position and name of the female junior researcher in question, should she not have written the grant proposal herself (where applicable).

I have submitted the same grant proposal to another internal university funding programme but have not yet been informed on the outcome. Can I apply for the bridging programme?

Yes, you can. However, your grant proposal definitely must not have been accepted yet; any simultaneous support from two university sources is prohibited. You are required to inform the project coordination (Office for Gender Equality) about any other acceptance immediately.

How can I apply?

Please

- fill in the application form
 - including all signatures necessary (grey boxes p. 1: applicant and academic supervisor)
 - enclose all annexes
 - save it all as one PDF file; order of application documents as follows:
 1. application form Financial Support Programmes
 2. application form Bridging Funding
 3. statement by academic supervisor (additional sheet, if applicable)
 4. cover letter
 5. CV
 6. list of publications
 7. synopsis
 8. proof of grant proposal submission
 9. supporting documents
- submit the PDF file to the Office for Gender Equality at gleichstellungsbeauftragte@uni-ulm.de within the application period.



Who decides on the approval?

The Board of Directors of ProTrainU assesses and decides on the basis of defined criteria (see directive) which applications will be accepted for funding.

Who provides information on the application process and the funding approval?

The Office for Gender Equality.

SCOPE AND INTERVAL OF CALLS FOR APPLICATION

How many female researchers can receive the funding?

A maximum of two female researchers per round will receive the funding.

When will this programme be announced again?

All rounds planned for 2021 can be found on our website (<https://www.uni-ulm.de/en/misc/equal-opportunities-portal/grants/grants/bridging-programme-for-the-career-entry-of-female-junior-researchers/>).

FINAL REPORT

When is the final report due and what are the details?

The final report must be submitted to the Office for Gender Equality via email within one month after the funding has finished.

Form: fill in template „final report“

(<https://www.uni-ulm.de/misc/gleichstellungsportal/foerderung/foerderprogramme-fuer-wissenschaftlerinnen/ueberbrueckungsprogramm/>)

Content: - report on scientific work done during bridging period
- information about funding decision on grant application
- information on general academic progress
- plans for career after bridging period
- feedback on efficacy of bridging programme

Length: max. 1 page

As of: 09 Mar 2021