

Start-up funding A

To support junior researchers, Ulm University allocates funds from the University Allowance acquired through the Excellence Strategy of the German federal and state governments. The *Graduate and Professional Training Centre Ulm* (ProTrainU) is responsible for the implementation of this measure.

Purpose of funding

Start-up funding A serves to help develop and sharpen the applicant's research profile, to support academic independence and to help with the preparation of an external third-party funding application.

Type of funding

Start-up funding A is granted in the form of materials, equipment and staff for independent research projects that explore a new subject area and serve as preparation for the next level of academic qualification. (Please refer to use of funds to see how exactly the funds may be used).

The **funding period is 12 or 24 months**. The maximum **funding amount** is € 50,000.

Application deadline: 08 January 2023, start of funding: 1 May 2023

Please observe funding directive and selection criteria.

Application requirements

- Eligible are junior researchers after completing their doctorate (postdocs up until they submit their habilitation, junior professors can apply within the first year of their post) of the following faculties of Ulm University:
 - Faculty of Engineering, Computer Science and Psychology
 - Faculty of Mathematics and Economics
 - Faculty of Natural Sciencesas well as junior researchers after completing their doctorate from institutions of the Medical Faculty whose head is co-opted into one of the three other faculties.
- An employment contract with Ulm University for the entire funding period is mandatory.
- The **doctoral degree must not have been obtained more than five years prior to the start of funding**; periods of statutory maternity, parental and caretaker leave are taken into account. Documentation must be provided. The following applies in compliance with the *Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz* (short: *WissZeitVG*; law on fixed-term employment contracts in the science and research sector): Two years are credited per child up to the age of 18 who lives in the applicant's household. In accordance with §15 *Rahmenprüfungsordnung* (Framework Examination Regulations) and §25 *Rahmenpromotionsordnung* (Framework Doctorate Regulations of Ulm University), periods of illness are also taken into account (documentation required). The PhD must be finished by the time the funding is supposed to start. The applicant is responsible to prove it. The date of the disputation/defence applies.
- Only one application can be approved per applicant.
- If you were awarded a grant in Startup funding B already, an application in line A is still possible.
- **Simultaneous applications in other junior researcher programmes of the Medical Faculty and Ulm University as well as simultaneous funding are not allowed** (except for mobility programmes). A grant in the *Bausteinprogramm* (Medical Faculty) excludes a later grant in the Startup funding programme of the University (ProTrainU) and vice versa.
- If you already received Start-up funding A (ProTrainU) or the start-up funding programme *Bausteinprogramm* of the Medical Faculty before, you cannot apply.
- The applicant must have access to the basic infrastructure of the institute and the frame conditions for the implementation of the project must be in place. This funding cannot be used to finance basic infrastructural equipment.
- Applications that do not meet the formal requirements (e.g. non-compliance with the requirements detailed in the call for applications, incomplete documents, failure to submit on time) will be excluded from the selection process.

Use of funds

The following types of **staff** can be funded:

- expenses for increase in working hours of doctoral/PhD candidates
Mandatory: Doctoral/PhD candidate in question must already have adequate funding (i.e., employment contract with Ulm University subject to social security contributions). In addition, there must be no HR regulations that rule out an increase in working hours.
Important: Employees whose employment contract is limited in time within the framework of a third-party funded project (see § 2 Abs. 2 WissZeitVG) may only increase working hours if the majority of the employment relationship continues to be with the third-party funded project. In these cases, the ratio should be 2/3 of the employment volume for the third-party-funded project and max. 1/3 of the employment volume for the increase in working hours. The projects must directly serve the qualification of the employees.
- remuneration for student assistants (undergraduate and/or with bachelor degree).
It is not permitted to employ student assistants for the completion of degree work.
- **This programme does not allow you to request funding for your position as project leader.**

The following **materials & equipment** can be funded:

- consumables
- travel expenses and costs of research visits of up to a maximum of 3 months - as long as they are necessary to successfully carry out the project or serve to present the project outcome to the scientific public for discussion. The legal provisions of the Landesreisekostengesetz Baden-Württemberg (LRKG) and the Auslandsreisekostenverordnung (LARVO) apply.
- publication expenses
- scientific instrumentation directly and absolutely required for the realisation of the project (no basic equipment such as office PCs, monitors, etc.)
- test person remuneration (see regulations by Central University Administration, Dez. IV)
- But not: representation expenses.

Selection process

The applications will be assessed by the ProTrainU Board. The Board evaluates whether the requested funding is conducive to the advancement of the applicant's academic career and whether the requested funding is commensurable.

Selection criteria

Applications will be assessed based on the following **criteria**:

- Does the funding help to develop and sharpen the applicant's research profile?
- Does the funding help to advance the applicant's independence as a researcher?
- Academic quality and feasibility of the project

Funding conditions

- The junior researcher is responsible for the earmarked use of the approved funds.
- The principle of annuality applies, i.e. the requested funds must be spent in the respective financial year for which they were requested. A transfer of funds to the following financial year is only possible upon justified application and a maximum of only half of the remaining budget can be made available again.
- Additional costs, e.g. higher personnel costs must be covered by the respective institutes. The start-up funding is aimed at individual junior researchers at Ulm University. Termination of the employment contract between the applicant and Ulm University within the funding period leads to the discontinuation of the funding and must be reported to the Graduate and Professional Training Centre without delay. A continuation of the project is possible in justified exceptional cases after approval by ProTrainU only.
- A conversion of funds for materials and equipment into funds for assistant staff and vice versa is possible upon written request only; the decision is made by ProTrainU.
- A short **final report** (see template) must be submitted no later than six months after the end of funding.

Application

The application must be submitted electronically together with the required documents as **one PDF file** (complete application including attachments) by email to protrainu@uni-ulm.de **plus** as a **printout of the complete application** (including attachments) by in-house mail to the Graduate and Professional Training Centre (see below for contact details).

The following attachments must be enclosed with the application: CV (max. two pages), list of publications (max. ten of your own publications, one page) and list of acquired third-party funding (one page).

All further information, the application form and the final report can be found on the [ProTrainU website](#).

Programme coordination

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