

## Directive for Start-up funding B – '*minor*' project start-up

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 the funding

Start-up funding B 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. For doctoral students, this measure explicitly aids to prepare them for the time after their successful doctorate and supports them in the transition between their doctorate and the post-doc phase.

### Type of funding

Minor start-up funding is granted in the form of materials and equipment, assistant staff and/or test person remuneration for independent research projects that explore a new subject area and serve as preparation for the next qualification level. The maximum **funding amount** is **EUR 10,000**.

The funding period is 12 months.

### Application requirements

- Eligible are doctoral students from the third year of their doctorate onwards (the doctoral agreement is to be provided to evidence when the doctorate has started) **as well as** junior researchers after completing their doctorate (postdocs up until they submit their habilitation, junior professors can apply within the first year of their post).
- Prerequisite is an existing employment contract with Ulm University (not the Medical Faculty or University Medical Centre).
- 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).
- Only one application can be approved per applicant.
- Those who already received funding through Start-up funding A (ProTrainU) or the start-up funding program *Bausteinprogramm* of the Medical Faculty can **not** apply for Start-up funding B.
- **This funding cannot be used to finance one's own position or for employing a doctoral student.**
- 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.

### Selection process

The applications will be assessed by the Board of Directors of ProTrainU. The Board of Directors 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**:

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

### Funding conditions

- The principle of annuality applies, i.e. the requested funds must be spent in the respective financial year for which they were requested.
- 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 only possible in justified exceptional cases upon application and is subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of the Graduate and Professional Training Centre.
- A conversion of funds for materials and equipment into funds for assistant staff and vice versa is possible upon compelling written application. The decision on this is made by the Graduate and Professional Training Centre.
- A short **final report** (see template) must be submitted no later than six months after the end of the funding.

### Application

The application must be submitted electronically together with the required documents as **one PDF file** (completed application including attachments) by email to [protrainu@uni-ulm.de](mailto:protrainu@uni-ulm.de) and **additionally** 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: Doctoral agreement, acceptance letter as doctoral student, CV (max. two pages), list of publications (max. ten of your own publications, one page) and list of acquired third-party funding (one page).

### Programme coordination

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