



## Call for proposals: Early Career Incubators

In its Structure and Development Plan (STEPL) 2022 to 2026, chapter "Curiosity-driven research", Ulm University has defined an incubator concept which, according to the motto *high risk, high gain*, serves to create room for highly innovative projects in the fields of research, transfer/translation, early career and teaching.

In line with the landmark theme „Crossing Borders“, Early Career Incubators are intended to provide both non-bureaucratic and flexible funding for Ulm University’s early career researchers and, additionally, for projects aimed at strengthening this target group.

### Objectives

Early Career Incubators give early career researchers space for innovative and creative research ideas and/or additional time for academic qualification.

The focus should be on co-operations within and outside Ulm University, as well as on exchange and networking with other academics, both at home and abroad.

Transdisciplinary discourse is to be strengthened, co-operations fostered and internationalisation enhanced.

This incubator concept includes two funding lines:

### Funding line 1: Funding of research ideas and event formats for early career researchers

Funding is provided for research ideas and event formats that serve the purpose of networking and professional qualification of early career researchers at Ulm University. This includes, e.g., funds to organize conferences, workshops or summer schools; business travel and research visits (three months max.). Projects that strengthen the target group of early career researchers are also eligible for funding. Research ideas that may well lie outside the mainstream are welcome.

### Funding line 2: Temporary positions for postdoctoral researchers<sup>1</sup>

Funding is provided for postdoctoral positions that bridge the gap to medium- or long-term funding in the postdoctoral phase so that new subject areas and/or methods can be explored or deepened.

The following can be funded for a 12-month-period:

- bridging the gap between submission and acceptance of a third-party funding proposal<sup>2</sup>
- period necessary to prepare and submit a third-party funding proposal

The two funding lines may be combined.

### Application and selection procedure

Applications may be submitted by early career researchers (postdoc phase onwards in agreement with their heads of institute) as well as by professors of the following faculties:

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

Applications must not exceed a maximum of 5 pages (plus annexes: CVs, documents on third-party funding, if applicable: approvals). Please use the template enclosed. **Submission Deadline: 28 April 2024**; applications should be submitted as one pdf file to [protrainu@uni-ulm.de](mailto:protrainu@uni-ulm.de) plus as a **printout of the**

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<sup>1</sup> Early Career Incubator funding may not replace any other funding, neither planned nor ongoing. Bridging funding only starts after the expiry of an existing employment contract.

<sup>2</sup> Employment contract is issued for 12 months and remains in force even if the submitted third-party funding application is rejected before the end of the contract period.



**complete application** (including attachments) by in-house mail to the Graduate and Professional Training Center (see below for contact details).

Early Career Incubators are selected by the ProTrainU Board according to the following criteria:

- *significance for early career researchers at the university*
- *scientific quality, originality and innovative potential of the project*
- *prospect of continuation of the project after funding has ended*
- *interdisciplinarity of the project (e.g., more than one faculty involved)*

The ProTrainU Board makes a funding recommendation to the Presidential Board about the applications eligible for funding. The funding decision itself is made by the Presidential Board.

### **Scope of funding and use of funds**

Funding starts on 1 July 2024. Funding period: 12 months.

The amount of funding per incubator is up to EUR 100,000 per year. After the proposals have been accepted, Dez. IV will set up the project accounts and make the funds available in lump sums.

The funds may be used for materials/equipment and scientific instrumentation, travel expenses and remuneration for student assistants (undergraduate or with bachelor degree) but not for food, drinks or gifts. Please note that the grant funds are University budget funds (not third-party funds).

When spending the money, those responsible for the project must observe the guidelines of the state of Baden-Württemberg, the [Statutes for Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice](#) by Ulm University and the DFG Code of Conduct "Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Research Practice".

At the end of the funding period, a short final report on the objectives achieved and the difficulties encountered has to be submitted.

### **Programme coordination**

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