Ulm Postdoc Research Grant 2026

Ulm University supports outstanding postdoctoral researchers in establishing independent research projects. The program aims to foster the development of an independent academic profile and to enable the preparation of competitive grant proposals. It is coordinated by ProTrainU and forms part of Ulm University's strategic measures to support researchers in the early stages of their careers.

Type of Funding
Funding is provided for project-related expenses that directly serve the preparation of a major external grant application. Applications may be submitted for materials, funds for research assistants and project-related equipment. The maximum grant amount is **EUR 20,000.**

Funding period: 01 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 Application deadline: 6 May 2026

Application requirements
- **Eligible are Postdoctoral** researchers until they submit their habilitation of the following faculties of Ulm University:
    - Faculty of Engineering, Computer Science and Psychology
    - Faculty of Mathematics and Economics
    - Faculty of Natural Sciences
- Applicants must have an **employment relationship with Ulm University or hold a scholarship for living expenses** based at the university. The employment or scholarship must be valid at least until the end of the requested funding period.
- **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. 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 §25 Rahmenpromotionsordnung (Framework Doctorate Regulations of Ulm University), periods of illness are also taken into account. Documentation is required in all applicable cases.
- 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.
- If Start-up funding A has already been approved, you cannot submit an application.
- 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 can be funded:
- remuneration for student assistants (undergraduate and/or with bachelor degree). The weekly working hours may not exceed half of the regular working hours of a full-time employee. It is not permitted to employ student assistants for the completion of degree work.
- Consumables
- Travel expenses for the applicant, such as costs for research stays (up to a maximum of three months), conference participation, or visits to cooperation partners,

provided these are necessary for the successful execution of the project or for presenting project results to the scientific community for discussion. The relevant travel regulations apply: The **Landesreisekostengesetz** Baden-Württemberg (LRKG), **Ulm University's travel expense regulations**, and the **university's general travel policies** valid at the time of travel. Amount of funding: as required, **max. EUR 5,000**

- Scientific instrumentation that is directly and absolutely required for the realisation of the project (basic equipment such as office PCs, monitors, etc. is not eligible for funding)
- Scientific instrumentation purchased through this funding remains the property of Ulm University after the project ends.
- Renumeration for test subjects, in accordance with the relevant regulations of the Central University Administration, Department IV.
- Representation expenses are not eligible for funding.
- **This program does not provide funding for the project leader's own position or for employing a doctoral/PhD student.**

Selection process and criteria
Selection is made through a competitive process by the ProTrainU Board of Directors.
Applications will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Academic quality and feasibility of the project
- Contribution to academic independence and profile development

Eligibility Requirements
To be eligible for funding, applicants must present a convincing plan for securing a larger externally funded project during or immediately following the funding period. The application must specify which funding line the application is intended for and how the requested funds will contribute to the preparation of this third-party funding application. **Proof of the submission of a corresponding third-party funding** application must be provided no later than in the final report.

Funding conditions

- The project leader is responsible for ensuring that the approved funds are used for their intended purpose.
- **The principle of annuality applies**, i.e. the requested funds must be spent in the respective financial year. **Any extension of the project is ruled out.**
- **Simultaneous internal and/or external funding of the project is also excluded.**
- This funding is intended for individual early career researchers at Ulm University. If the employment contract/scholarship between the applicant and Ulm University is terminated during the funding period, the funding will be discontinued. Such changes must be reported to ProTrainU without delay.
- **A final report** must be submitted no later than three months after the end of the funding period.

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 ProTrainU (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), list of acquired third-party funding (one page).

All further information, the application form, and the template for the final report (available in both German and English) can be found on the ProTrainU website.

Programme coordination
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