



Call for proposals for initial funding for young PostDocs (Call No. 3)

Research funds of the German Sport University (GSU)

Aim of the grant

In the light of universities' increasing need to acquire competitive third-party funding and the resulting requirements and expectations for researchers, young scientists at the German Sport University can receive specific financial support to help them successfully apply for competitive funding research grants.

The grant is designed to support the **preparation of an application to a competitive third-party funding organization** (e.g. DFG, EU, BMBF, BfSP, foundations). It aims to give young scientists the possibility and resources to prepare a proposal and to improve their proposal writing skills.

Innovative research ideas with relevance for basic and/or applied sciences in the field of sport sciences should be integrated in an application concept, which will be submitted to a funding organization with a competitive peer-review process. If the grant is awarded, the research project should be carried out at the German Sport University Cologne. Due to the current efforts of the DSHS to attract more third-party funding from the DFG, this funding line is intended to encourage young researchers in particular to submit applications to the DFG. The various funding programs of the DFG should be considered.

Funding modalities

For the preparation of a third-party funding application young scientists can apply for their **own researcher position** (up to 50% principle investigator position (WMA)) for up to **12 months**. An interim report detailing the work program must be submitted no later than 3.5 months after starting the position. The grant approval will be made if the university budget allows its implementation and if the university has enough resources in the award year.

Application process

Young scientists in the final phase of their PhD and Postdocs up to 24 months after finishing their PhD (date of certificate; times of parental or care leave will be taken into account according to the WissZeitVG) are eligible to apply. Applicants who apply in the final phase of their PhD have to comply to the following additional requirements: applicants must hand in their application for the admission to the doctoral examination procedure (= submission of the dissertation) nine months after application to this call the latest. The application for a researcher position can only be considered if the doctoral examination procedure has been initiated. Only proposals from individuals are eligible (no group applications). Each person can only hand in one proposal. The proposal must be supported by the head of the institute/department; the support letter must also comprise a recommendation for the applicant.

The proposal should point out why the aspired third-party funded project is important for the applicant's scientific career and independence. If the reviewing process of the third-party funding organization is included in the time plan, project flanking and supporting work should be defined.

The proposal has to include the outlined points of the **application form for call no. 3** including the documents referred to therein as an attachment.



Please note: If the formal requirements of the application form (page numbers, etc.) are not met, the application will not be accepted.

Please note the current and long-term effects of the corona pandemic in your project and time planning, also with regard to flexible adaptation.

Applications can be written in German or English. Complete application documents should be handed in electronically (via e-mail, max. 5 MB) **as one pdf** document to the Department of Research to the following email address: forschung-dshs@dshs-koeln.de. Please state in the email subject line the call number (Call 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) in which you apply (e.g. Call 3 for this funding line).

For questions please contact Dr. Birte Ahrens, b.ahrens@dshs-koeln.de - 8737).

Review process and approval

All applications receive written reviews. The university commission for research will make a final funding decision based on the written reviews and the funding priorities of the call. In funding line 3 the main assessment criterion is the scientific potential of the candidates. Core reviewing criteria in general are:

- Individual-related aspects (e.g. previous research achievements) and contribution of the project to the future scientific career
- Relevance of the topic
- Quality and feasibility of the pre-proposal tasks
- Realistic time plan
- Consideration of gender and diversity dimensions in the application

Please also refer to the application form of the call. Approvals are estimated to be given in July 2021. It is intended to open the call twice a year.

Responsibilities

The position comes with the obligation of teaching for 2 semester hours per week (SWS). An interim report has to be handed in unrequested no later than 3.5 months after start of the position. In the interim report a precision of the method has to be given. Only after approval of the interim report the additional 6 months of the position can be approved. With approval of the grant it is expected that the applicant will seek out the Department of Research and Young Academics for advice on the preparation of his or her third party funding proposal. Furthermore, the final proposal (after submission to the funding organization) has to be provided to the Department of Research and Young Academics. If the funding organization awards a grant, the proposal should be made available as a “best-practice” example to other young scientists of the German Sport University via the Department of Research and Young Academics. Rejected proposals and the review reports (if possible) should also be provided. In the rare case, that after this call’s funding period no proposal is submitted to a competitive funding organization, a written justification has to be given.

Deadline is March 22, 2021.