

Klaus Tschira Boost Fund

Supporting Researchers in the Natural Sciences,
Mathematics and Computer Science.

Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

Are there any successful / not successful proposal examples available to browse?

No, but you can learn more about our previous fellows and their projects on our [website](#).

Can I win the KT Boost Fund more than once?

No, it is only possible to get the KT Boost Fund once.

What happens if I get a Junior Group Leader position or a W2/3 professorship while waiting for the feedback of my KT Boost Fund application?

In this case, please inform us. We will then decide how to proceed.

Will there be another call next year?

We do not know yet. Future calls will be announced on our website. Please subscribe to our [newsletter](#) to stay updated.

Is moving to an institution other than the one I am at the moment of the application considered as a plus?

Moving institutions is neither a plus or minus, we mainly look at the project and the feasibility at the institution you have chosen.

Would you fund projects in the same area as previous fellows? Or are you looking to fund other areas with priority?

We look at each new projects independently from previous funded projects. It does not matter if the disciplines have been already funded before.

When can I start my project and how long is the funding period?

Your project start should be between 1 April and 1 October 2022. The maximum funding period is 2 years.

CONTACT:

Application

Does it need to be one applicant or can it be a shared proposal?

It has to be one applicant.

Is it possible to get funds for a collaboration project between two German institutions? Do you need a letter of support from both of them?

Yes, it is possible as long as there is only one applicant. We only need the statement from the institution where the applicant is affiliated.

For reapplying: should the project change substantially or can it be similar? Should I comment/describe the changes in the proposal?

You can reapply with the same project if it is not already funded elsewhere. You do not have to comment or describe the changes in the proposal.

Can I apply with an interdisciplinary project?

Yes, interdisciplinary projects are encouraged.

In case of an international collaboration, does the host/non-German institution have to give the statement for my application? Or only my German employer?

We only need the statement from your German institution.

Can proposals be written in German and English?

Yes, you can write your application in German or English.

Is it ok to apply for less than 80,000 Euros?

Yes, you do not have to apply for the full amount of 80,000 Euros.

What do you mean with “Describe the boost”?

Please explain and convince us how the additional funding makes a difference in your career (for you independence, your development as a researchers, for a publication, a collaboration etc.).

Who exactly should provide/ sign the support statement from the university?

It should be someone who can confirm your position/financing and that infrastructure will be available for you. It can be you PI or head of department also an administrative department. It does not have to be the president.

CONTACT:

Use of Funds

Can the funding be used for a PhD or master students?

Yes, you can use the funds to hire a PhD or master student. In both cases, please explain the necessity of the staff. In the case of partial funding of positions (e.g. PhD positions), please indicate the extent to which co-funding is provided by the institution or others.

Can I fund a short research stays in other countries (due to collaboration) using the KT Boost Fund?

Yes, that is possible.

Can I use the money for my own traveling for collaborations and conferences?

Yes, that is possible.

Is it possible to buy analytical instruments from the funds, as they will stay with the host institution after the end of the funding?

Yes, that is possible.

What about university overhead? Does this have to be paid from the 80,000 euros?

We do not pay overhead costs. If the institution retains overhead costs, these must be included in the 80,000 euros and shown in your budget plan.

Requirements

Is there a limit of age or an upper limit to the PhD age (postdoc experience)?

No, there is no age limit and no upper limits of years after PhD for a postdoc to be eligible to apply.

Can I apply if I have not yet completed my PhD at the time of application?

Yes, that is possible if your PhD has been successfully completed by the start of your project at the latest and you are then a postdoc.

It is possible to apply for group leaders?

As a group leader you are eligible to apply if only your own position is funded and you do not have a tenure option (W2, W3) or further substantial funding to build up your own group.

Are those who have completed a habilitation eligible to apply?

Yes, if you still meet the requirements (postdoc status or similar, no tenure option (W2, W3), no substantial other funding).

Can you apply when you already have a tenured position?

Yes, if you do not have a tenured position for a W2 or W3 professorship and if you still meet the requirements (*see answer above*).

CONTACT:

Is there any criteria related to nationality?

Nationality is irrelevant, you only have to be at a German host institution.

Do I have to be employed in Germany at the time of application? Or is it ok if the employment starts after application deadline?

You do not have to be employed in Germany at the time of application but at the latest at the start of your project. For your application, however, we already need the statement of the institution in Germany.

Is (partial) funding of my own position a prerequisite for funding?

No, it is not. Funding can be used for all types of costs. If you want to cover a part of your salary, you can use a maximum of 75 per cent of the funds.

Reviewing Process

Will there be a detailed feedback irrespective of acceptance/rejection?

Please note that we cannot give any personal feedback for applications or provide you with the reasons for our decision, irrespective of acceptance or rejection of your project. The evaluation of the reviewers will not be forwarded.

How many fellowships are funded?

Each year we have 800,000 euros and can fund between 10-12 projects.

How long does the review process take? When do you receive feedback?

The application deadline is 15 November 2021. You will receive feedback in the first quarter of 2022.

Can I propose international reviewers? Or do reviewers have to be from Germany?

No, you can also propose international reviewers.

Is it possible to exclude potential reviewers as they are competitors in the field and you do not want them to know the project you are proposing?

Yes, that is possible. In this case, please contact us via phone or email after submission of your application.

Does the reviewer already have to be a professor?

No, the reviewer can also be an experienced scientist, group leader or junior professor.

Please prepare your application in accordance with the [application guidelines](#). Submit your application via the [online application form](#).

CONTACT: