

Klaus Tschira Boost Fund

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

Frequently Questions

Asked

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.

Can I submit two applications with two different projects at once?

In theory that is possible, but consider if you're really doing yourself a favor investing time and energy in two applications.

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 your project and its feasibility at the institution you have chosen. The institution must be in Germany – and you must submit a supporting statement by this institution (see [application guidelines](#)) with your application.

Do you fund projects in the same area as previous fellows? Or are you prioritizing new areas?

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

Can I apply with an interdisciplinary project?

Yes, interdisciplinary projects are encouraged.

CONTACT:

Can I apply with a project to develop a new method or approach?

Yes, that is possible as long as you can explain why this is important for you, for the field and for your career development.

Can I apply for seed funding to build a startup?

No. The Boost Fund is designed for basic research – with possible implications for application, but not for the commercialization of your research.

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

Your project start should be between 1 September and 31 December, 2023. The maximum funding period is 24 months and the maximum amount of funding 80,000 Euros.

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 and handling the administration of the funds.

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.

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 applications be written in German and English?

Please hand in your application in English. Budget plan, motivation letter and supporting statement are possible in German.

What do you mean with “Describe the boost”?

Please explain and convince us how the additional funding makes a difference in your career (for your independence, your development as a researcher, for a publication, a collaboration etc.). See also our wrap-up of the 2023 webinar on our [website](#).

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Is an excellent publication record a selection criteria?

This is no primary funding criteria for the Boost Fund. However, your publications should reflect where you are currently in your academic career. And you need to convince the reviewers about your project – and publications might help in that regard.

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

It should be someone who can confirm your position/contract for the duration of your project and that infrastructure will be available to you. It can be you PI or head of department also an administrative department. It does not have to be the president. We recommend to plan some time to get the signature, though.

Can I change my time frame, budget plan and/or institution once the project has started?

The Boost Fund is quite flexible for adjustments and we try to find a solution, if you can explain the reasons and necessity. In any of these cases, please contact us as early as possible.

Do you have requirements regarding font type, size and spacing – or a template for the CV?

No, we don't – but please have the reader in mind when laying out your application. For a CV, check CVs of established researchers to get a better idea. In the [application guidelines](#) you'll find the max. length of pages for each application document.

Use of Funds

Is (partial) funding of my own position a prerequisite for getting the Boost Fund?

No, it is not. If you want to cover a part of your salary, you can use a maximum of 75% of the total funding you apply for. Please note that all budget calculation for staff needs to include all expenses covered by the employer. Ask your Human Resources Dept. or similar for assistance in calculating the total sum.

Can the funding be used to hire PhD or master students?

Yes. 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 and by whom to make sure that the students are able to complete their degree. We recommend to explain this also in the supporting letter of your institution.

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

Yes, that is possible, but a substantial part of your project needs to be spent at the German institution.

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

Yes, that is possible.

Can I buy analytical instruments, as they will stay with the host institution after the end of the funding?

Yes, that is possible.

CONTACT:

What about university overhead?

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.

Is it ok to apply for less than 80,000 Euros and/or less than 24 months?

Yes, you do not have to apply for the full amount of 80,000 Euros or for the full 24 months. The reviewers look at the feasibility of your project within the timeframe and whether your budget plan fits. You will not increase your chances by applying for less funding or less time.

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 limit 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 will be successfully completed by the start of your project at the latest and you are then a postdoc. Show the reviewers that it is realistic you will graduate on time, e.g. via the supporting letter of your institution.

It is possible to apply as a group leader?

As a group leader you are eligible to apply only if 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, no tenure option (W2, W3), no substantial other funding).

I have a permanent position – am I eligible to apply?

No.

Is there any criteria related to nationality?

Nationality is irrelevant, you only have to be employed at a German host institution (public university, public University of Applied Sciences or non-university research 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 (see application guidelines).

CONTACT:

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 in your specific case.

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 due to the high number of applications we receive and limited resources. The evaluation of the reviewers will not be forwarded. We recommend to read about our previous fellows and their projects on our website.

How many fellowships are funded?

In 2023, we are able to fund 15 fellows.

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

The application deadline is 31 March 2023 (23:59 CET). Applicants will be informed in July 2023 at the latest.

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: