

# Klaus Tschira BOOST FUND

A joint program by GSO and Klaus Tschira  
Stiftung to promote researchers in the Natural  
Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science.



## Program Information

### Idea

Through the Klaus Tschira Boost Fund, we promote **excellent researchers by providing**

- **flexible funding** for independent, explorative, risky, and interdisciplinary projects;
- support in building (international) **collaborations and networks**;
- targeted **mentoring and advice** on professional and personal development.

The Boost Fund gives postdoctoral researchers greater flexibility in shaping their career paths, accelerating their careers, and promoting early independence.

The Klaus Tschira Boost Fund was developed by the GSO who is managing the program and is the main contact for fellows and alumni. **Funding is generously provided by the [Klaus Tschira Stiftung](#).**

### Funding

For the 6<sup>th</sup> KT Boost Fund, we fund **15 new fellows**. Projects start between 1 April and 1 Oct. 2025.

It is possible to apply for funding of **up to € 120,000 for a period of up to 24 months**. Funding can be used for all types of costs – but no more than € 65,000 to (partially) cover the fellow's salary.

In addition, fellows profit from a 4-part **career development workshop series**, get access to the [GSO's career advice & coaching services](#), and become members of the exclusive **alumni network AlumNode** which focuses on

- Leadership & Career Development
- Science Communication & Advocacy
- Projects & Collaborations

[AlumNode](#) offers access to knowledge transfer and sharing, promotes and supports independent projects, peer mentoring as well as numerous other opportunities for advice and professional development.

CONTACT:

## Requirements

The program addresses **postdoctoral researchers** who

- are employed at a public university, university of applied sciences or non-university research institution in Germany,
- conduct research in one or more of the following areas: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geosciences, Mathematics, Neurosciences and Physics,
- do not have a permanent or tenured position,
- and are not already funded by a junior research group program.

**If the application is successful, the fellow and applying institution agree to the Conditions of Grant Approval** (for download on the website).

Funding must be requested by the institution and made freely available to the fellow. All funding must be used under the approved budget plan. All expenses must be documented in a yearly use of funds to be submitted to the GSO.

### FAQ Requirements

**Is there an age limit or upper limit for academic age (years of postdoctoral experience)?** No.

**Can I apply if I have not completed my PhD at the time of application?** Yes, if your PhD will have been completed at the latest by the start of your project and you will be a postdoctoral researcher. Make sure to show the reviewers in your application that it is realistic to expect you to complete your PhD in time. Your institution should also mention this in its letter of support.

**Is it possible to apply as a (junior) group leader?** You can apply if these 3 criteria are met: 1) your position is funded, 2) you do not have a tenure option (W2, W3), 3) you do not have further substantial funding, e.g. by a (junior) research group program. For a list of programs that we exclude please see next page.

**What happens if I get a (junior) group leader position or a W2/W3 professorship while waiting for the decision on my Boost Fund application?** In this case, please inform us. We will then decide how to proceed in your specific case.

**Are those who have completed a Habilitation eligible to apply?** Yes, if you still meet the above requirements.

**Are there any nationality/citizenship criteria?** No, you only have to be employed at a German public institution (university, university of applied sciences, non-university research institution).

**Can I reapply?** Yes.

**Can I submit two applications with two different projects at the same time?** In theory, yes, but consider whether you're doing yourself a favour by investing twice as much time and energy.

**Can I win the KT Boost Fund more than once?** No.

CONTACT:

If you receive one of these grants you are not eligible to apply



## Application

All information is available for download on the program website:

- Application Guide with FAQ
- Template Budget Plan (Excel file)
- Conditions of Grant Approval

We recommend reading these carefully as the program is highly competitive. The grant approval rate was 5% in 2023 and 3% in the years before.

**The application deadline for the 6<sup>th</sup> KT Boost Fund is October 23, 2024 23:59 CEST.**

Applications are solely accepted via our [online application form](#).

Subscribe to the [GSO newsletter](#) to stay informed on future calls, events and career news.

CONTACT: