

# Program Information

**Klaus Tschira Boost Fund** - A joint program by GSO and Klaus Tschira Stiftung offering flexible funding and career development to promote researchers in Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geosciences, Mathematics, Neurosciences and Physics.

## 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 GSO - Guidance, Skills & Opportunities for Researchers e.V., which manages the program and serves as the primary contact for fellows and alumni. The Klaus Tschira Stiftung generously provides funding.

## Funding

For the 7<sup>th</sup> KT Boost Fund, we fund **15 new fellows**. Projects can start between 1 May and 1 Oct. 2026.

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 € 67,000 gross for the fellow's salary.

In addition, fellows profit from a **4-part career development workshop series** on

- Linking Purpose and Career (6h in person)
- Being an Effective Manager
- Practicing Self-Care and
- Assessing your Capacity to Lead (each 3,5h online)

Fellows also get free access to [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, and numerous other opportunities for advice and professional development.

## Eligibility

The program addresses **postdoctoral researchers** who

- are employed at a state-funded (public law) university or university of applied sciences (= öffentlich-rechtliche Universität or HAW), a Fraunhofer, Leibniz, Max Planck, Helmholtz, DLR institute or at EMBL in Germany at the latest at the start of your project,
- conduct non-clinical research in one or more of the following areas: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geosciences, Mathematics, Neurosciences and Physics,
- do not yet have a permanent or tenured position,
- and did not successfully apply to one of the junior research group programs listed on p. 3.

**If the application is successful, the fellow**

- and applying institution **agree to the Conditions of Grant Approval** (download on website), and
- is **expected to attend the Welcome Event** for all fellows & alumni in June 2026, in Berlin, **and the 4-part career development workshop series**

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

There is no legal entitlement to funding. Funding is subject to the availability of funds from the Klaus Tschira Stiftung..

## FAQ Eligibility

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

**Are there any nationality/citizenship criteria?** No.

**Can I live and work abroad while receiving the funding?**

The program allows and funds research stay(s) abroad since one of the goals is to establish/deepen collaborations that are beneficial for your future academic career. However, fellows are expected to spend the majority of their time in Germany during the funding period.

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

Yes, if you are currently a doctoral researcher, your PhD must be completed at the latest at the start of your project (thesis successfully defended). Make sure to show the reviewers in your application that it is realistic to expect you to complete your PhD in time and that you will work on your project. Your institution should also mention this in its letter of support.

**Is it possible to apply as a junior professor (W1) or (junior) group leader?**

Yes, if these criteria are met: 1) your position is funded, 2) you do not have a permanent position or 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 we exclude, see p. 3.

**I have completed a Habilitation – am I eligible to apply?**

Yes, if you still meet the above criteria.

**What happens if I get a permanent contract, 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.

**Can I reapply?** Yes.

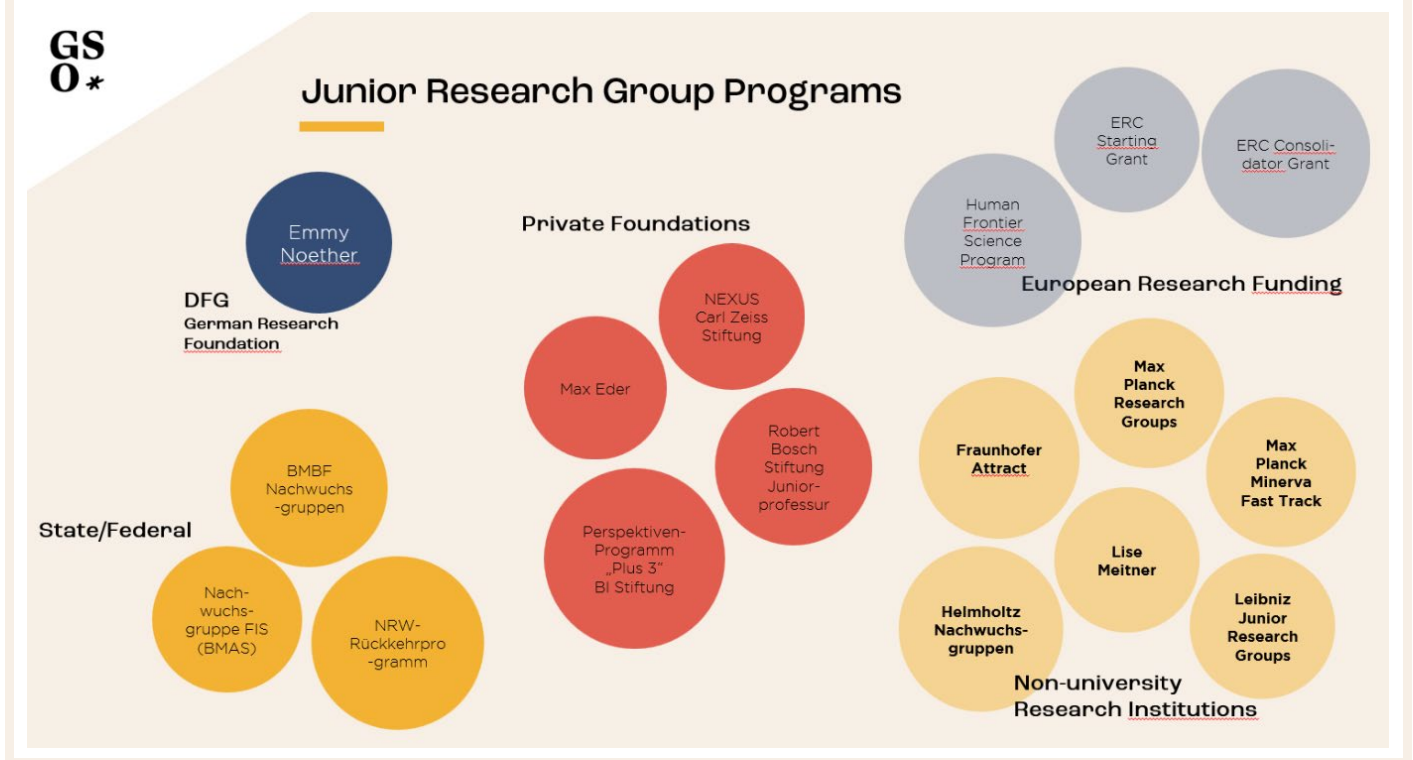
**Can I submit two applications with two different projects at the same time?**

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 successfully applied for one of these programs, you are not eligible to apply for the KT Boost Fund



## Application

We recommend reading these documents available for download on the [KT Boost website](#) carefully before preparing your application, as the program is highly competitive with an approval rate of 5%:

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

Also, check [our career resources website](#) for valuable peer advice on grant applications and attend the **info webinar on 7 July, 16:00** (registration link on the [KT Boost website](#)).

**The 7th KT Boost Fund application deadline is 1 October 2025, 23:59 CEST.**

Applications must be submitted via the GSO's [online application form](#).

Please familiarize yourself with the online form before you upload and submit your application. Completing the form takes time.

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

CONTACT: