

Program Information 2026

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 **workshops, coaching, and peer support** for 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 8th Boost Fund, we fund **15 new fellows**. Projects can start between May 1 and Oct. 1, 2027.

It is possible to apply for funding of **up to € 115,000 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 for the duration of the project. Junior group leaders or junior professors cannot apply for funding for their own position.

Fellows profit from a **4-part career development workshop series** on

- Linking Purpose and Career (6h in-person workshop in June 2027)
- Being an Effective Manager
- Practicing Self-Care and
- Assessing your Capacity to Lead (each 3,5h online, one session per month)

Fellows get free access to [GSO's career advice & coaching services](#), and become **members of an exclusive alumni network**.

If the application is successful,

- **the fellow and host institution agree to the Conditions of Grant Approval** (on website), and
- **we expect the fellow to attend the Welcome Event** for all fellows & alumni in June 2027 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 as in the submitted and approved budget plan. All expenses must be documented in a yearly use of funds (*Verwendungsnachweis*) 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.

CONTACT:

Eligibility

The program addresses **postdoctoral researchers** who

- are employed at a state-funded (public law) university or state-funded (public law) university of applied sciences (= *öffentlich-rechtliche Universität oder HAW*), at a *Bundesamt* or *Bundesanstalt (Ressortforschung)*, at a Fraunhofer, Leibniz, Max Planck, Helmholtz, or 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 position or tenure option,
- and do not have acquired further substantial funding (see p. 3 for details).

FAQ eligibility

I am not sure if my research institution falls into the scope of eligible institutions.

Contact us if your research institution is not listed above.

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

Yes, but your thesis must be successfully defended at the start of your project at the latest. Make sure to show in your application that it is realistic for you to complete your PhD in time and that you can focus on your proposed project. Your institution must refer to this in its letter of support.

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.

I am a postdoctoral researcher abroad. Can I apply with a letter of support from a host institution in Germany? Yes, if the host institution agrees to the commitments listed in the Application Guide. Please bear in mind that applicants already affiliated/employed at a research institution in Germany may have an advantage in preparing a feasible project proposal and budget plan due to familiarity with navigating the system. Be aware that visa, relocation, and onboarding processes can cause project delays. The Boost Fund is designed more as a retention program than a recruiting program. Yet, if you have a project idea that fits the scope of this program and the support of a host institution, we welcome your application.

I am an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow.

Alexander von Humboldt Fellows are eligible to apply. Please note: Your Boost Fund project must differ from the one funded by AvH, and of course, be designed and conducted independently by you. If you plan to apply for funding for your position, discuss employment and work contract issues with your institution *before* you submit the application. We do not fund scholarships. Make sure your Financial Department sets up a cost center (*Kostenstelle*) for your project budget if you get the grant.

I am a junior group leader or junior professor (W1).

You are eligible to apply if you meet these criteria: 1) your position is funded, 2) you do not yet have a permanent position or tenure option (W2, W3), 3) you have not acquired further substantial funding (see p. 3 for details) at the time of your application.

I am currently completing or have completed a Habilitation.

You are eligible to apply if you meet the above criteria 1) – 3).

What happens if I get a permanent contract, a (junior) group leader position or a professorship while waiting for the selection decision or after being awarded the fellowship?

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

Can I reapply? Yes. For more information, refer to the Application Guide.

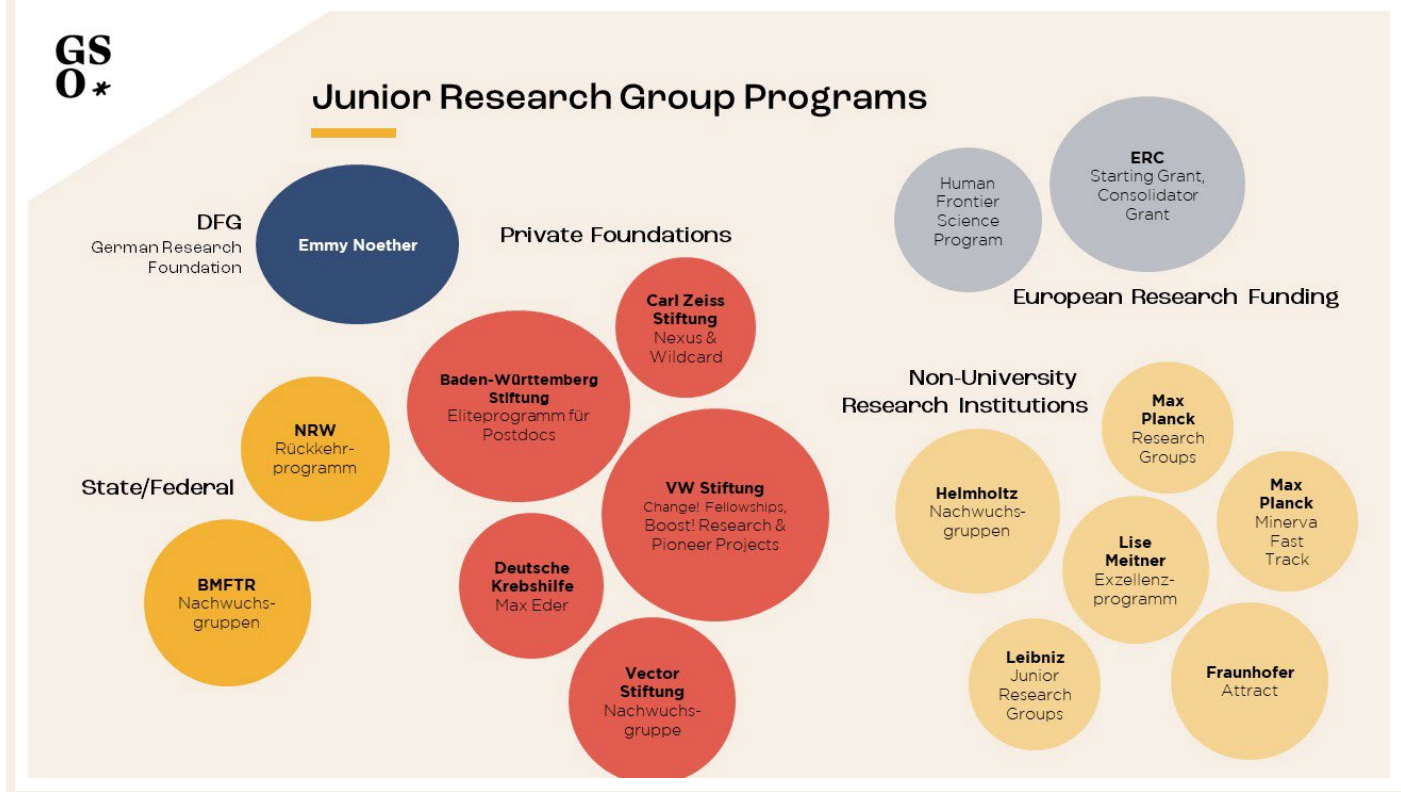
CONTACT:

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

Yes, but we only fund one project per person.

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

If you secured funding from one of these programs, you are not eligible for the Boost Fund



Application

We strongly recommend that you read the information available 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 our **info webinar on July 8, 16:00 (CEST)** (registration link on the [KT Boost website](#)).

The application for the 8th Boost Fund ends on October 1, 2026, 23:59 CEST.

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

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

CONTACT: