

Funding Guidance

1. Funding goals

The Frankfurt Foundation Quality of Medicines (FFQM) intends to promote research activities in the field of drug product development and optimization of quality assurance processes of existing medicinal products. This may also include implementation of innovative processes.

Only projects and scholarships that are in line with the FFQM's objectives and thus serve the foundation's purpose can be supported. The decision on project' funding or a scholarship will be based on the content and scientific criteria of the application within the framework of the availability of the foundation's funds. There is no legal entitlement to the support of a project.

2. Funding formats in line with the foundation's goals

2.1 Project funding

- a. Research projects to optimize the pharmaceutical quality of medicinal products and to demonstrate therapeutic interchangeability of products with identical active ingredients, e.g., by assessing bioequivalence**

Applications can be made for exploratory studies in preparation for an application for third-party funding. If possible, such applications should concern self-contained projects which may be reportable/publishable as such. Such projects are eligible for funding of up to € 20,000.00. It must be explained in detail which third-party funding application (content, funding institution) is intended for which project and how the support provided by the FFQM is necessary and expedient in this context.

- b. Comparative studies on the quality of medicinal products on the market**

Project funds up to a maximum of € 20,000.00 can be applied for to carry out a defined project over a defined period of time.

- c. Improvement of the awareness of the importance of quality of medicinal products in politics and the public**

Project funding of up to a maximum of € 5,000.00 can be applied for to carry out a defined project over a defined period of time.

2.2 Scholarships

- a. Scholarships for doctoral, diploma or master's theses that are carried out**

- at a German research institution or
- by a German applicant at a foreign research institution

- b. Scholarships for young scientists**

- from abroad for a temporary research stay/internship at a German research institution or
- from Germany for a temporary research stay/internship at a foreign research institution

In all cases of scholarships, the research projects must deal with the optimization of existing quality assurance measures in the pharmaceutical sector or aim at the development of innovative procedures and/or their implementation in practice.

For medical doctoral theses, scholarships (€ 600.00 per month) can be applied for a maximum of six months as well as for material resources of up to € 4,000.00.

For doctoral theses in the natural sciences, scholarships can be applied for as start-up funding for the dissertation project or in preparation for subsequent continuation within the framework of other third-party fundings, usually for a maximum period of six months (€ 1,500.00 per month), as well as material resources up to an amount of € 6,000.00. The concept for the subsequent continuation of funding must be presented in detail in order to ensure that the doctoral thesis can be successfully continued.

In the case of doctoral theses in the natural sciences, support can also be applied for in the final phase of the dissertation project after other funding has expired by granting a scholarship (€ 1,500.00 per month) for a maximum of six months (in particularly justified exceptional cases, longer if necessary) as well as material resources up to an amount of € 6,000.00. Reasons must be given as to why the doctoral thesis could not be completed with other, previous funding, why such funding is not available until the thesis is successfully completed and how this will be achieved within a funding period granted by the FFQM.

Start-up and final funding for the same doctoral thesis is excluded.

For a temporary research stay/internship of a foreign junior researcher at a German research institution or a German junior researcher at a foreign research institution, scholarships can be applied for a maximum of six months (€ 1,500.00 per month) as well as material resources of up to € 6,000.00.

For any travel expenses must be applied separately.

The applicant for a scholarship is in all cases the prospective scholarship recipient.

c. Travel funds for the participation in national/international congresses or symposia

Doctoral students or young scientists from German research institutions can apply for travel funds if they wish to present their own research results on improving the quality of medicines (poster, oral presentation). It must be stated why no other sources of funding are available and how participation can be used to promote the objectives of the FFQM.

The applicant is the recipient of the travel funds. The applicant is obliged to provide proof that the funds have been used in accordance with the application.

3. General information on submitting an application

Preliminary remarks

The institution where the research project should be conducted is responsible for the basic equipment. For any costs incurred for the use of external large-scale equipment(s) must be applied according to the DFG's rates. Alternatively, a cost estimate from the service provider should be submitted.

In unclear cases, applicants are welcome to submit a preliminary inquiry to the FFQM to determine whether a proposal could be eligible for funding in terms of form and content. A brief, meaningful description is sufficient for this purpose. A positive assessment of the preliminary inquiry by the FFQM does not automatically mean that funding will be granted at a later stage based on the final application.

By accepting the approved funds, grant recipients undertake to comply with the principles of scientifically correct conduct and good scientific practice.

a. **Project funding:**

Grants can only be awarded to applicants at institutions that have implemented the explanations contained in the DFG's *"Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice"* code (<http://www.dfg.de/gwp/>).

b. **Scholarships:**

Grants for scholarships are paid directly to the scholarship holder. When applying for material resources in addition to the scholarship, a third-party fund's account must be set up at the host institution after approval, or - if this is not possible or reasonable - the scholarship recipient is obliged to provide evidence that the funds in kind have been used correctly and in accordance with the application.

Applications for project funding or scholarships should not exceed ten pages and should be structured as follows:

1. **General Information**

- Type of funding applied for
- Applicant
- Title/topic of the application
- Application period and planned start date
- Intended research institution
- Summary of application

2. **Presentation of the project**

- Status of research and, if applicable, own preliminary work
- Questions and objectives
- Detailed work program
- Outlook after completion of funding (especially in the case of start-up funding)

3. **Requirements necessary for the implementation of the project**

- Personnel, space, and equipment, if relevant for the project
- Reasons why the project cannot be financed from other sources

4. **Detailed list of the requested costs with justification**

- Scholarship and personnel funds
- Material resources

5. **Appendix**

- Scientific curriculum vitae and, if applicable, a list of the applicant's five most important publications

Applications for travel funds should not exceed five pages and should be structured as follows:

1. General information

- Applicant
- Title/topic/kind of the congress or conference event
- Date(s)
- Title/topic of your own scientific contribution that is related to the congress or conference participation

2. Presentation of the congress/conference participation

- Brief presentation of your own project
- Description of the objectives and expected results of the congress/conference trip
- Congress/conference program; if available, proof of acceptance of your own contribution as a poster/oral presentation or similar

3. Detailed list of the requested costs with justification

- Detailed list of costs (travel expenses, conference fees, accommodation)
- Reasons why these cannot be financed from other sources

4. Appendix

- Scientific curriculum vitae and, if applicable, a list of the applicant's five most important publications

4. Recipients of funding and requirements

4.1 Project funding

Natural persons and legal entities recognized as non-profit organizations (e.g. registered associations, scientific societies, foundations) from the fields of natural sciences and medicine with projects that correspond to the purpose of the grant are eligible to apply. In the case of legal entities, individual scientists must be specifically named as applicants or grant recipients and project managers.

The grant recipient must provide evidence that the overall financing of the project is secured and that it is able to prove that the funds are being used as intended.

4.2 Scholarships

Prospective recipients of the respective scholarship who are active in the field of natural sciences and medicine with projects that correspond to the purpose of the grant are eligible to apply.

5. Application, assessment, and approval

The FFQM has no fixed submission deadlines. Applications can, thus, be submitted at any time. Applications should be submitted electronically via the Foundation's e-mail address info@frankfurt-foundation.org.

The applications are first subjected to a preliminary review including check for correspondence to the fundamental funding objectives of the Foundation. If the result of this preliminary review is positive, the FFQM's Scientific Advisory Board will then review the application. If necessary, external experts may also be consulted.

The Scientific Advisory Board makes a recommendation based on the results of its review. The final decision on funding is made by the Foundation's Executive Board, also taking into account the financial resources currently available in each case.

The submission of an application for funding does not constitute an entitlement to a grant from the FFQM. Legal recourse is excluded.

Applicants may also submit an informal preliminary inquiry to clarify the suitability of a planned application for the Foundation's funding purposes. A positive decision in the sense of an invitation to submit a complete application does not imply automatic approval of the application submitted in response.

5.1 Proof of use

Proof of use must be documented on a form provided by the Foundation with the grant. If the generally required proof of use is not properly maintained, the grant may be reclaimed.

5.2 Presentation of grants

The grants can be handed over to the recipients informally or as part of a ceremony, depending on the object of funding.

5.3 General data protection regulation

A new General Data Protection Regulation has been in force in the EU since 25.05.2018. All important information regarding the processing of personal data by the Foundation can be found on the Foundation's website.

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The Executive Board of the Frankfurt Foundation Quality of Medicines