

Funding Guidance

1. Funding goals

The Frankfurt Foundation Quality of Medicines (FFQM) promotes science and research in the field of pharmacy with the aim of ensuring, further developing, and optimizing the pharmaceutical or biopharmaceutical quality of established or new drugs and drug therapies in Germany. This may also include researching and implementing innovative processes or active ingredients.

Funding is provided for projects and scholarships that are in line with the objectives of the FFQM and thus serve the purpose of the foundation. The awarding of project funding or a scholarship is based on the content and scientific criteria of the application and the applicant, subject to the availability of the foundation's funds. There is no legal entitlement to funding.

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. In exceptional cases, which must be justified, it is possible to apply for a higher amount of funding. 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 € 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 € 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 under points a and b, the research projects must focus on optimizing existing quality assurance methods in the pharmaceutical sector or aim to develop innovative procedures and/or implement them in practice.

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

For doctoral theses in the natural sciences, scholarships can be applied for as start-up funding for the dissertation project or to prepare for subsequent continuation within the framework of other third-party funding, usually for a 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 subsequent further funding must be presented in detail to ensure that the doctoral thesis can be successfully continued.

For doctoral theses in the natural sciences, support can also be requested for the final phase of the dissertation project after other funding has expired, in the form of a scholarship (€1,500.00 per month) for six months (in exceptional cases, possibly longer) and material resources up to €6,000.00. Applicants must justify why the doctoral thesis could not be completed with other, previous funding, why such funding is not available until the successful completion of the thesis, 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

Travel grants can be applied for by doctoral students or young scientists from German research institutions if they wish to present their own research results on improving the quality of medicines (poster, lecture). They must explain why no other sources of funding are available for this purpose and how their 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, specific individual scientists must be named who will act 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 they are able to prove that the funds have been 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.

Applications are first subjected to a preliminary assessment to determine whether they are in line with the foundation's fundamental funding objectives. If the preliminary assessment is positive, the applications are then reviewed by the FFQM's Scientific Advisory Board. External reviewers may also be consulted if necessary.

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

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

Applicants may also submit an informal preliminary inquiry to clarify whether a planned application is compatible with the foundation's funding objectives. A positive response in the form of an invitation to submit an application does not imply automatic approval of the application subsequently submitted.

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.

Upon completion of the project, no later than six months after the end of the project period defined in the application or approval, a final report must be submitted to the foundation. This report should cover the results achieved, any problems encountered during the work, the possible continuation of the project (e.g., in the case of start-up financing), and any publications. Upon request, the deadline for submitting the final report can be extended to one year.

In publications relating to the funded project, the Frankfurt Foundation Quality of Medicines (FFQM) must be mentioned by name as a third-party funding provider in the acknowledgments or funding information. The same applies to presentations given by the applicant on the project and the results obtained from it.

The recipient of the grant is obliged to carry out the work in accordance with the DFG's "Good Scientific Practice (GWP)" guidelines and in compliance with other legal requirements (e.g., when conducting animal experiments or genetic engineering work).

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