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FAQ – STUDENT RESEARCH GROUPS

Is the funding for student research groups being offered once only or on a regular basis? If regularly, how often and when?
Currently, we are planning to offer funding for student research groups once every semester. We will post information about this on the Excellence Strategy website, the website for the Hub for Crossdisciplinary Learning (HCL) and on other channels, e.g. via STiNE.

Is funding available for groups only?
Yes, a student research group must include at least 2 people.

Do all project members need to be enrolled at Universität Hamburg?
Yes.

Who is eligible to serve as a mentor?
Mentors must be professors at the University

Can the research also be carried out abroad in cooperation with Universität Hamburg?
The research has to take place at Universität Hamburg and may not be conducted abroad. However, we can finance travelling expenses for conferences or for research purposes in Germany or abroad.

Can the funding be combined with other sources of financing?
No, the Excellence Strategy does not allow for multiple funding sources for individual projects. However, parts of the overall project (work packages) can be defined as a microprojects to be exclusively funded by the Excellence Strategy. These are then seen as subprojects distinct from the overall project, provided there are compelling explanations for them as such.

Is the funding available to students at the UKE (University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf)?
Yes.

What happens if applicants withdraw, e.g., because they end their studies?
The applicants agree to a contract with the funding institution for student research groups – the contractors are the members of the research group. Should a member of the research group leave, the responsibility will pass on to the remaining members of the research group. This should be an absolutely exceptional case. Students who already know at the time of the application that they will finish their studies within the project duration should not participate.

Is it possible for doctoral researchers to apply?
No, the funding call is for bachelor's, master's and Staatsexamen students only.

Can mentors submit their accompanying letters after the end of the application deadline?
In duly substantiated cases, the mentor can submit the accompanying letter after the application deadline. However, an assessment of the application documents can be made only when they are complete.

Why does the funding exclude final theses?
Funding is intended to support students who wish to learn more about research and gain qualifications during their studies, not at the end of their studies.

Can the research project also be conducted in English?
Yes, research projects can also be conducted in English.

When are project results due?
The final report, which summarizes the results of the research project, is due 3 months after funding ends.

Can the funds also be used to organize conferences or symposia (e.g. conference by students for students, catering, renting premises, accommodation and traveling expenses for guests)?
The funds can also be used to hold a conference or a symposium. The detailed costs must be clarified and checked in advance.

How specific does the financial plan have to be?
The more detailed the better (ideally with attached offer), because it makes it easier for the decision-makers to get an impression of the total expenditure.

Can devices which have been procured and covered by the research funds be kept after the project ends?
All materials and devices which have be procured remain the property of the University of Hamburg and will be returned to the coordination office at the end of the project. Consumables are excepted from this rule.

Can funds be used to attend conferences (for conference fees, travel expenses, accommodation)?
Yes, funds can be used for travel expenses for research purposes.

Can funds be used to pay for software licences?
Unless the software can be purchased from the RRZ (Regional Computing Center), funds can be used to buy software licences.

Can the submission deadline be extended?
No.

Do the 3 pages include the bibliography?
The 3-page limit is intended as a guideline only and the application proposal should not be considerably more or less than this. A bibliography is not part of the project description.

Does the topic have to be chosen within the context of a cluster of excellence?
No, the topic can be chosen freely.