



How to apply for an IRTG start-up funding

Target group:

Graduates of the IRTG-1901, who aim for a career within academia.

Objective:

Bridge the funding-gap between thesis-defense and start of a PostDoc position. Successful applicants are supposed to use the start-up funding for writing and submit a grant proposal for a PostDoc position, finalize research projects at their home university and start new research projects. Travel funds allow for visiting other research labs in Germany or abroad.

Start-up funding includes:

- Stipend (1.750,- Euro / month) for up to 12 months (shorter terms are possible)
- Funds for consumables and travel (max. 6.000,- Euro/12 months). This includes also costs (travel, accommodation, registration) for active participation at scientific conferences during the time of the stipend or up to six months thereafter. Support of the IRTG has to be acknowledged appropriately.
- Participation in IRTG activities
- PostDoc mentoring

Requirements:

- Final mark of the dissertation: *Magna cum laude* or better
- At least three first-author publications. Among these (i) all three must have been published or accepted for publication, or (ii) two manuscripts must have been published or accepted for publication and at least one further manuscript must be submitted for publication.

Decision making:

- All proposals will be reviewed by the IRTG's directorate. The review process must be in accordance with the *Guidelines for Avoiding Conflicts of Interest* of DFG. If necessary, IRTG supervisors, who are not member of the directorate, will be asked for reviewing the proposal(s).
- A decision will be reached and communicated to the applicant no later than six weeks after submission of the proposal.
- In order to reach a decision, applicants might be invited for an interview. In addition, budget cuts might be necessary depending on available IRTG-funds.

Documents to be submitted:

- Proposal (three pages maximum) including a letter of motivation, description and justification of the application for a PostDoc position (e.g.: specify funding scheme, research organization, etc.), project-, time- and financial-plan for the IRTG start-up funding
- Two letters of support, one each from a German and a Canadian PI of the IRTG.
- Confirmation of the working group for (i) hosting the applicant for the specified time and (ii) providing office- (and lab-) space for the applicant.