

➤ Career Fund: Starting Grant

Information Sheet

(as of May 2026)

1. General

The “Starting Grant” supports new research projects that serve as preliminary studies to prepare proposals for external funding. The funding is available to postdoctoral researchers from all faculties who do not hold a professorship. In exceptional cases, doctoral candidates who are nearing the completion of their doctorates may also be eligible for funding. Applications may generally only be submitted by individuals. In the case of collaborative projects, a lead applicant is required.

At the time of application, the project should be at an early stage, although some initial conceptual and planning work may already have been carried out. To avoid double funding, projects that have received financial support from other university funds are excluded from funding.

Researchers who have already received a “Starting Grant” from the Career Fund or its predecessor project (“Nachwuchsfonds”) are eligible to apply for another “Starting Grant” for a new project again, provided they can demonstrate that a proposal for external funding has been either submitted or approved as a result of the previous funding.

Applications must be submitted at least 8 weeks before the start of the project.

A committee decides on the award of funding, always in accordance with the university's applicable guidelines and with regard to the criteria of appropriateness and cost-effectiveness. If funding is granted, a new application for a “Starting Grant” can only be submitted in the following year. In the event of a rejection, a new application may be submitted in the same year.

If funding is granted, the decision is based on the submitted application and the parameters listed therein. Significant changes to the project content, the planned costs or the use of funds therefore require prior consultation with the Career Fund.

When the funded project is finished, a final report must be submitted unsolicited within 4 weeks. This should comprise one to two A4 pages and include a bank statement for the cost centre showing the individual transactions, as well as the relevant supporting documents as proof of expenditure.

2. Financial Conditions

The "Starting Grant" supports research projects with up to €10,000 per project.

If the committee makes a positive decision, a separate cost centre will be set up to which the approved funds for the relevant fiscal year will be transferred.

The procurement and settlement of the approved materials and services, as well as the hiring of student assistants, is carried out independently by the grant recipients. The fiscal year-end must be observed, as must the guidelines of the University of Koblenz and the principles of economy and efficiency. Grant recipients are responsible for complying with the applicable regulations. It is recommended that the guidelines are reviewed in advance.

If unforeseen purchases or the hiring of student assistants become necessary during the course of the project, this must be agreed with the Career Fund in advance. Failure to do so may result in the Career Fund reclaiming the funds spent in this manner.

Orders placed after the application has been submitted and before the official commission decision has been issued are at the applicant's own risk.

If initial financial transactions have already been carried out or contracts requiring payment have been awarded in the context of the submitted project prior to the application, the Career Fund cannot provide funding for the entire project.

Further information will be provided to grant recipients upon receipt of the notification of approval.