

➤ Career Fund: Trial & Error

Information Sheet

(as of May 2026)

1. General

The “Trial & Error” funding is open to researchers with a doctorate from all faculties at the University of Koblenz who do not hold a professorship and who wish to test a research idea. 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.

Applications must be submitted at least 4 weeks before the project begins. If funding is requested for student assistant hours, please allow for a lead time of 6 weeks.

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. A person can receive funding for “Trial & Error” only once a year. If funding is granted, a new application for the funding line “Trial & Error” 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 plan or the projected costs therefore require prior consultation with the Career Fund.

When the funded project is finished, a written report on the progress of the funding must be submitted unsolicited within 4 weeks.

2. Financial Conditions

“Trial & Error” provides funding of up to €2,500 per project.

The billing for approved materials and, if applicable, the hiring and billing of student assistants is handled through the Career Fund’s cost centre.

The submitted project and budget plan is binding, and costs that have not been approved cannot be reimbursed. Any deviations must be agreed upon in advance with the Career Fund. If this is not done and the resulting costs exceed the approved funding, the Career Fund cannot guarantee that it will cover those costs.

Grant recipients are solely responsible for procuring approved materials and, if necessary, finding a suitable student assistant. The guidelines of the University of Koblenz must be followed, as must 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.

Orders placed after the application is submitted and before the official commission decision is issued are made at own risk.

If initial financial transactions have already been made or contracts requiring payment have been awarded in connection with 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.