

Project Funding for First and Second-Time Applicants (May, 1st 2024)

Targeted objective

The funding and support of young applicants on the way to scientific and/or scholastic selfreliance has always been an emphasis at the Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung foundation. The line of funding entitled “First-Time Applicants” provides the opportunity to submit applications at any time. They are subsequently evaluated and decided upon in a competition among first-time applicants. This funding fundamentally does not serve the purpose of financing own positions to be held by applicants.

Eligible applicants

Applications can be made by physicians with a degree as a doctor of medicine (MD) or by life scientists with a doctorate and active in the field of medical research who are employed at a university hospital, a university or an extramural research facility or institution in Germany. First-time original publications in a capacity as lead author are a prerequisite. As a rule, applicants have set forth their scientific and/or scholastic work after having received their doctorate within the course of a post-doctoral period or as accompaniment to their advanced medical training.

However, physicians and scientists who have already acquired more than one project grant in peer-reviewed procedures from the DFG (also as PI of a SFB sub-project or a research group sub-project), BMBF, Cancer Aid, EU, etc. are not eligible to apply in this procedure. The same applies to researchers who already have a first time grant application (Erstantrag) funded by the Else Kröner-Fresenius Foundation. This restriction does not apply to Else Kröner scholarship holders and fellows of the Else Kröner Doctoral Programmes and the Else Kröner Research Schools.

The acquisition of intramural funding, smaller external project funding or personal scholarships awarded without material resources are not an obstacle to submitting an application.

Application submission

In the course of a one-step procedure we await the submission of fully completed applications as regards both form and content which comply with the “Information for Applicants” (<https://www.ekfs.de/en/scientific-funding/funding-lines/first-and-secondapplications>) and are sent in electronic form to antrag-wissenschaft@ekfs.de.

An accompanying letter from the clinic, hospital or institutional director in charge is a decisive element of application (see also Part C of the “Information for First and Second Applicants”. The following questions ought to be answered therein:

- Are signs of a successful academic career as *clinician scientist* or natural scientist in medical research emerging in the case of this candidate?
- What does the candidate's medium-term development perspective look like at the clinic, hospital or institute in question?
- What significance does the proposed project have within the context of research at the institute, hospital or clinic?
- What importance does the project have for the candidate's scientific and professional development?
- As a percentage, for how many of the candidate's working hours is he/she going to be released from providing healthcare and/or from institutional responsibilities in order to implement the project?
- Proof of coverage of the applicant's position at least for the duration of the project
- Can 1/3 of the project's total expenditures be allocated in the form of personnel resources and non-monetary resources stemming from institutional funding?

Resources that can be applied for

Application can be made for both personnel resources and non-monetary resources which are necessary for enactment of the planned project and scientifically well justified. Application can fundamentally not be made for one's own position, as employed within the project or otherwise.

Exceptions to this can be permitted in rare individual cases when:

- the situation deals for example with a physician displaying a longer-term clinical employment relationship who is applying for a release from providing healthcare,
- or a binding commitment for employment at the clinic, hospital or institution exists following expiration of the project.