

Package of Measures: “Forschungspotenziale besser nutzen!”

## **Funding of preparatory events and associated measures to attract high-ranking third-party funding to strengthen academic research culture**

### Standing invitation

It is the goal of the University of Augsburg and its faculties to make greater use of the university's existing research potential in order to attract high-ranking third-party funding projects thus enabling research at the highest level. Positive developments in recent years concerning the strength of research at the university and welcome success in acquiring third-party funding projects are to be reinforced and given further impetus. It is against this background that the university executive and the faculties have decided to strengthen research at the University of Augsburg in general and in particular with regard to attracting high-ranking third-party funding. The package of measures “*Forschungspotenziale besser nutzen!*” (Strengthening Research Potential) provides several support mechanisms and incentives to achieve this goal.

This standing invitation aims to support the initiation of inter- and intra-university research co-operations, from providing fundamental underlying support and specific content-related support in relation to the concrete preparation of research proposals through to the strengthening of research orientation and the culture of academic research.

The chances of success with regard to research project proposals can be significantly increased by feedback from experts and colleagues (“critical friends”). Workshops covering various funding formats, including basic approaches to the development of third-party funding applications, can impart the relevant skills in order to overcome hurdles. The initiation of cooperative research projects (in particular coordinated projects such as graduate programmes, research groups, special research areas) requires intensive networking, the identification of viable content-related interfaces, and the targeted development of a joint innovation idea that significantly expands the international state of research. This also applies to more or less interdisciplinary cooperative projects within the University of Augsburg as well as to more narrowly disciplinary-specific projects in cooperation with researchers from other universities. At a fundamental level, the development of a strong research orientation requires a culture of appreciation and recognition of high-level research achievements and third-party funded research, a focus on the continuous effort to acquire third-party funding (also in view of often low acceptance rates, which requires meaningful engagement with initially rejected applications), as well as mutual collegial support and advice.

### **Purpose of the funding**

The purpose of the funding is to support preparatory events and accompanying measures that serve to attract third-party funding from competitive, high-ranking sources (DFG, EU, BMBF, selected foundations) and to strengthen the culture of academic research.

In detail, the following types of measures are eligible for funding:

1. Workshops for initiating research cooperations
2. Workshops on preparing research proposals
3. Fees and travel expenses for “critical friends”
4. Events to promote research orientation
5. Other measures that serve the above-mentioned purpose.

Funding is thematically open. Preference will be given to measures that are strategically important for third-party funded research in the faculties or disciplines.

### **Eligibility to apply for funding**

The heads of faculties and faculty institutes as well as all professors who have not been relieved of their duties are eligible to apply.

Reference is made to similar lines of funding that are/will be set up for early career researchers in the area of the promotion of women and the Graduate Centre.

As part of their mandate, the university's research centres already conduct many successful events and measures to initiate research cooperations and proposals, to promote academic networking, and to foster a research orientation in their fields. The events and measures funded by this call serve to complement these; research centres can be considered as cooperation partners.

### **Nature of the funding**

Costs eligible to be covered by funding include those necessary to hold events, to involve experts from outside the university, and for other measures (especially travel expenses, fees, room rental, funding for student assistants, and materials). The total costs for a case of funding should not exceed €5,000.

The spending guidelines for funds from the state budget must be observed (especially for hospitality costs).

### **Funding allocation procedure**

The allocation procedure is strictly quality- and research-orientated. Criteria for the evaluation of applications are: (1) a convincing concept for the planned measure, (2) the function of the immediately planned or future third-party funding proposal, (3) the appropriate calculation of funds.

A written application with the following information must be submitted:

1. Applicants (including function)
2. Title of the planned measure
3. Type of planned measure (category according to the section “purpose of funding”)

4. Purpose of the planned measure (including its function for the immediately planned or future third-party funding proposal)
5. Description of the planned measure (including time/duration)
6. Requested funds (justified with reference to the planned measure, exact calculation).

Attachments:

- Current CV for each applicant (not required for applications from the heads of faculty)
- If applicable, further attachments (e.g., letters of intent for cooperations)

Applications should use the form downloadable from the following link:

<https://www.uni-augsburg.de/de/forschung/forschungspotenziale-nutzen/massnahmen-zur-starkung-der-wissenschaftskultur/>

The application should be submitted via the Dean's Office; the approval of the Dean is a prerequisite.

After completion of the measure, a short report (max. 2 pages) is expected, outlining the effects of the measure on the acquisition of third-party funding from competitive, high-ranking sources.

Applications can be submitted on an ongoing basis. They must be submitted in electronic form (one PDF file) to [forschungspotenzialenutzen@praesidium.uni-augsburg.de](mailto:forschungspotenzialenutzen@praesidium.uni-augsburg.de). There is no entitlement to funding.

Präsidium of the University of Augsburg,  
16th May 2023