

Packet of Measures: "Forschungspotenziale besser nutzen!"

Funding for research projects at the Environmental Research Station Schneefernerhaus

Call for proposals, September, 2026

The Environmental Research Station Schneefernerhaus (UFS) is situated on the southern slope of the Mt. Zugspitze at an altitude of 2,650 metres, making it Germany's highest environmental research station. For 25 years, scientists from various institutions and disciplines have been working together here, carrying out measurements and research projects. The University of Augsburg has been a consortium partner of the environmental research station since 2008 and operates laboratories and monitoring sites there.

These offer our researchers unique scientific opportunities: the high altitude enables research to be carried out under specific climatic and ecological conditions that are not available elsewhere, or only to a limited extent. Atmospheric research, climate research, environmental sciences, materials sciences and environmental medicine are just a few examples of the wide range of research fields that find ideal conditions at the UFS. Furthermore, the infrastructure of the Schneefernerhaus opens up a wealth of potential for interdisciplinary research approaches that can combine perspectives from the natural sciences, engineering, life sciences, health sciences, social sciences and the humanities.

The University of Augsburg has been investing in its partnership with the UFS for many years. Its aim is to make even greater use of the UFS's academic potential and to further enhance the University's visibility within the UFS. Against this background, it is launching this internal funding programme, which is intended to initiate new research activities utilising the UFS's existing infrastructure.

Purpose of the funding

Funding is provided for preliminary research that utilises the UFS's infrastructure. The aim is to generate preliminary work that demonstrates the innovation potential and scientific feasibility of the research idea and lays the groundwork for applications for third-party funding or other sustainable research activities at the UFS.

The programme is thematically open. In particular, it is expected that the funded projects will

- make significant use of the UFS's infrastructure and/or research environment,
- strengthen research activities of the University of Augsburg at the UFS,
- generate pilot data, proofs of concept, publications or other preliminary scientific work,
- lay the foundations for the development of longer-term research programmes involving the UFS, for example through externally funded projects.

Persons eligible to apply

Professors who have not been relieved of their duties as well as mid-level faculty members with a doctorate who are involved in a supporting working group are eligible to apply.

Type, duration, and scope of funding

Project-related costs in the range of 50,000 Euros, in particular personnel costs for academic staff and student assistants, materials, and travel expenses associated with carrying out the project at the UFS are eligible for funding. The applicant's own position is not eligible for funding.

Projects must be completed by 31 December 2027 at the latest. The earliest possible start date for the project is 1 January 2027.

Only projects that are not funded through any other means and that have not been submitted to other institutions for funding are eligible.

Allocation process

The allocation process is strictly quality- and research-oriented. The process for the allocation of funding is carried out by a selection committee in accordance with the selection criteria set out below. The selection committee is composed of the Vice-President for Research, Digital Innovation and Technology Alliances, as well as other representatives of the Presidium, and may consult the UFS Science Team where necessary.

Proposals must be submitted in electronic form (one PDF file) by the deadline below:

15 November 2026

Send the proposal to forschungspotenzialenutzen@praesidium.uni-augsburg.de.

There is no entitlement to funding. A decision on funding is to be expected by the end of 2026.

Selection criteria

- (1) the novelty of the research activities at the UFS,
- (2) prospects for sustaining research activities at the UFS beyond the funding period,
- (3) Quality of the application assessed according to the following:
 - convincing presentation of the innovativeness of the planned research,
 - adherence to high academic and methodological standards,
 - the plausibility of the working plan,
 - appropriate use of funds

Documents to be submitted with the application

Applicants must submit a written proposal of no more than 5 pages in German or English, that can be judged according to the above-mentioned criteria. A current CV for all applicants, using the [DFG's CV template](#), must be included. The written application should follow the structure set out below:

1. Title of the project in German and English
2. Names of the applicants, faculty, working unit (Chair), and official position of each applicant.

If there is more than one applicant, please provide information for all applicants and name the main applicant.

3. Anonymised abstract in German and English (max. 150 words each)
4. Starting point (State of research, preliminary work, research gaps)
5. Objectives of the project
6. Work programme (incl. proposed research methods and time planning)
7. The necessity of using the infrastructure and/or research environment at UFS
8. Prospects for the sustainability of research activities at the UFS, building on the groundwork generated by the project
9. Total amount of funding requested, as well as a breakdown by cost category: research staff (based on the current [DFG funding rates](#)), student assistants (see the [intranet](#) for cost rates), materials and travel expenses.

Presidium, University of Augsburg, 23 September 2026