

Saarland University | Postfach 15 11 50 | 66041 Saarbrücken

To the

- University professors
- Junior professors

Message to:

- the deans
- the members/deputy members of the Research Committee

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Robert Ernst

Vice-President for Research
and Outreach

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Your contact person:

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Call for Proposals by the Research Committee of Saarland University

START-UP FUNDING 2026

Dear Sir or Madam,

the "Start-up Funding" program aims to increase the visibility of research at Saarland University and to support the preparation of third-party funding applications and large-scale publication projects. Therefore, the Research Committee accepts applications for:

- Start-up funding for research projects aimed at preparing third-party funding proposals to external funding bodies.
- Start-up funding for publication projects aimed at preparing book projects (e.g., monographs, excluding qualification theses).

The program particularly targets early-career researchers who do not have their own funds and have not yet secured third-party funding. Applicants must be employed at Saarland University with at least a 50% position for the entire duration of the proposed project.

Funding amount:

Up to €15,000.

If approved, funds will be available from **January 1, 2026**, for a maximum of **12 months**.

Eligible applicants:

- University Professors – C4/C3/W3/W2 (must have started their position before application submission; not applicable to senior professors)
- Junior Professors – W1 (must have started their position before application submission)
- Habilitated academic staff (including Academic Senior Councillors from A14) – only with written approval from a chair holder

- Temporary Academic Councillors (habilitation candidates / A13)
- Doctorate holders (PhD completed) – only with written approval from a chair holder
- Doctoral candidates (must provide written proof of the initiation of the review process) – only with written approval from a chair holder

Please forward this call to the eligible staff members in your area.

Application submission: Via MS Forms:

Thursday, August 21, 2025 (strict deadline),
(Application deadline: Start-Up Funding)

Application submission via MS Forms:

- **Application form (German):**
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=JwBhZ8MatkmGQczY-POGwH4rVzIOSxiVKq7xk4N-YW8JUN0MxUTVOTVhGNEhSN0pQNTg4Mlc3TVIRRy4u>
- **Application form (English):**
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=JwBhZ8MatkmGQczY-POGwH4rVzIOSxiVKq7xk4N-YW8JUQ0FWQTazTFA5MUZGTFRZRIdDTUZRVVYYVi4u>

Required attachments:

- Excel form "beantragteMittel_Anschubfinanzierung2026" (see attachment)
- If applicable, informal written endorsement from the chair holder
- Receipt document (see attachment)
- Curriculum Vitae (current DFG CV template): DFG CV Template
https://www.dfg.de/formulare/53_200_elan/

You can also find the application forms on the Research Committee's website: Research Committee – Start-up Funding:

<https://www.uni-saarland.de/verwaltung/forschungsausschuss/anschubfinanzierung.html>

Please refer to the Research Committee's rules of procedure for eligibility criteria and formal errors that may lead to rejection. English applications must include a generally understandable summary in German.

Submission:

Submit the complete application including all attachments via MS Forms by the deadline.

Send a copy to the dean of your faculty.

The faculty's approval must be forwarded to the Research Committee (forschungsausschuss@uni-saarland.de) within two weeks after the deadline.

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Identical applications must not be submitted to other funding bodies until a decision has been made by the Research Committee.

For members of the Faculty of Medicine, applications may only be submitted to one body (HOMFOR or the Research Committee), as per the decision of February 12, 2004.

Please ensure that your written documents are clear and complete, as they form the basis for the committee's evaluation.

For questions regarding the application process or formal requirements, please contact Ms. Kauth at: forschungsausschuss@uni-saarland.de

Yours sincerely,



Univ.-Professor Dr. Robert Ernst

Vice President for Research and Outreach