

Guidelines

for Reviews in the Walter Benjamin Programme



Disclaimer: The English translation of this document is provided for informational purposes. In the event of a discrepancy between the English and the German versions, the German text takes precedence.

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I Programme Information

The Walter Benjamin Programme enables researchers in the early postdoctoral training phase to conduct their own research project at a location of their choice.

By securing funding for a defined, autonomous research project, particularly qualified postdoctoral researchers pave the way for the next stages of their increasingly independent research career and exercise autonomy. The programme thus promotes early research careers with the aim of fostering the mobility and thematic development that are crucial in this career phase.

Funding can be provided for projects based in Germany or abroad, as well as for projects that combine periods in Germany and abroad.

The direct project funding required must be provided by the host institution. If the project will be carried out in Germany, the host researcher is expected to support the funded researcher's career development and integrate him or her into local structures.

Further information can be found in the Guidelines for the Walter Benjamin Programme with Proposal Preparation Instructions (DFG form 50.10).

www.dfg.de/formulare/50_10

Please note:

General Guidelines for Reviews (DFG form 10.20) are available at:

www.dfg.de/formulare/10_20

The review should not exceed two pages in length.

II Structure of the Review

1. How would you assess the **quality of the project**, especially with regard to originality and the anticipated contribution to knowledge?
2. To what extent do the **objectives and work programme** convincingly reflect clear working hypotheses and an appropriately distinct topic? Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the planned investigations, the suitability of the methods and the appropriateness of the schedule. How do you rate the explanations on the handling of research data?
3. How would you evaluate the **applicant's qualifications to date and his/her scientific potential** with regard to the next career step? Is he/she qualified to carry out the proposed project? How do you assess the applicant's plans with regard to the advancement of his/her research career? Is the proposed project at this institution or these institutions suitable to support it?
4. Are the reasons given for the **choice of host institution(s)** convincing? In principle, the programme promotes geographic mobility; in cases where no change of institution is planned, this should be justified in terms of thematic development.
5. How do you rate the **support** agreed to be provided by the institution(s)? Are the promised scientific and financial support, the working conditions and the research environment suitable for carrying out the project and effectively fostering it?

For projects based in Germany also:

Does the institution offer career support measures and structural integration, and are these opportunities suitable to advance the researcher's career?

6. Please provide a **clear recommendation** as to whether the proposal should be approved.

If you are in favour of funding, please also comment on whether the proposed duration at the proposed institution(s) is appropriate.

7. Other aspects

- a) If the proposal is for a **Walter Benjamin position** on a part-time basis, please note the following:

In accordance with the policies for promoting equal opportunities and diversity in science and academia, the Walter Benjamin position can be taken up on a part-time basis for family reasons (childcare or dependent care) and in cases of disability or chronic illness. The DFG accepts all proposals as full-time proposals with the aim of ensuring that all applicants for a Walter Benjamin position are reviewed uniformly.

- b) If the proposal is marked as having been submitted by a **refugee researcher**, this status has already been assessed by the DFG Head Office and is not the subject of the review. In this case, an application for a Walter Benjamin position is not limited to the early postdoctoral career phase. In your review, we ask you to take into account the special nature of the refugee researcher's biography with regard to the applicant's qualifications and, in particular, to consider the individual's scientific potential.