

An Exceptional Visionary

Philosopher and literary scholar **Walter Benjamin** (1892–1940) was one of the most renowned representatives of his disciplines in the 20th century. Despite obtaining a doctorate with *summa cum laude* in 1919, he did not pursue a typical career path in academia. He withdrew his habilitation thesis because others judged the work as too unorthodox for the academic domain.



Today, Walter Benjamin is highly regarded for his visionary oeuvre, including *The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction*, *On the Concept of History*, and his work on Charles Baudelaire. During National Socialism in Germany, he fled from the Nazis and committed suicide in exile in 1940. The DFG programme bears the name of a gifted, open-minded intellectual with wide-ranging interests who is famous for pushing boundaries.

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For additional information on the programme and the proposal submission process, see the DFG website at:
www.dfg.de/walter_benjamin/en



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Walter Benjamin Programme

Starting Your Research Career

The Future Before Your Eyes

You have completed your doctorate and you would like to continue your career in research?

Right now, it is important for you to have clear-cut plans and ideas regarding the next stages of your academic career. Mobility and the further advancement of your research are key elements here.

If you are looking to pursue an academic career, the DFG's Walter Benjamin Programme offers excellent opportunities for you to develop an independent research profile at an early stage with a project of your own.



Mobility, Independence and Career Support



The funding provided under the Walter Benjamin Programme allows you to pursue your own independent research project at a location of your choice for two years.

You can decide for yourself whether to choose a research institution in Germany or abroad. The Walter Benjamin Programme is also open to postdocs looking to gain research experience in Germany, and there is the option to combine stays at different places, too. It is important to select a host institution with the best setting for your research idea. Since mobility is vital in the early postdoctoral phase, you should definitely consider moving between different academic environments.

If the proposal you submit under the Walter Benjamin Programme is successful, you can focus on your research topic and if necessary take advantage of the support to prepare for the next stages of your academic career.

Proposal Submission Process and Funding

There is no formal age limit for submitting proposals, but only postdoctoral researchers in an early career phase are eligible to apply for funding under this programme. Periods of family responsibilities are taken into account.

Under the Walter Benjamin Programme, funding is provided to cover maintenance for a position in Germany or a fellowship abroad. You will also receive an allowance to cover project costs. Your host institute needs to provide you with working space and cover any additional project costs as necessary.

In Germany, you also need a statement from a researcher at your future host institution outlining how they intend to support you in your career advancement and integrate you into local academic networks.

The review process for your proposal will focus on your existing research profile, your potential with regard to pursuing an academic career and your research project.

