



DFG

The Heisenberg Programme

Information presented on the following slides are valid on 18th February, 2025.

Please check www.dfg.de/en for updates and current regulations.

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Topics

1 | The DFG – About Us

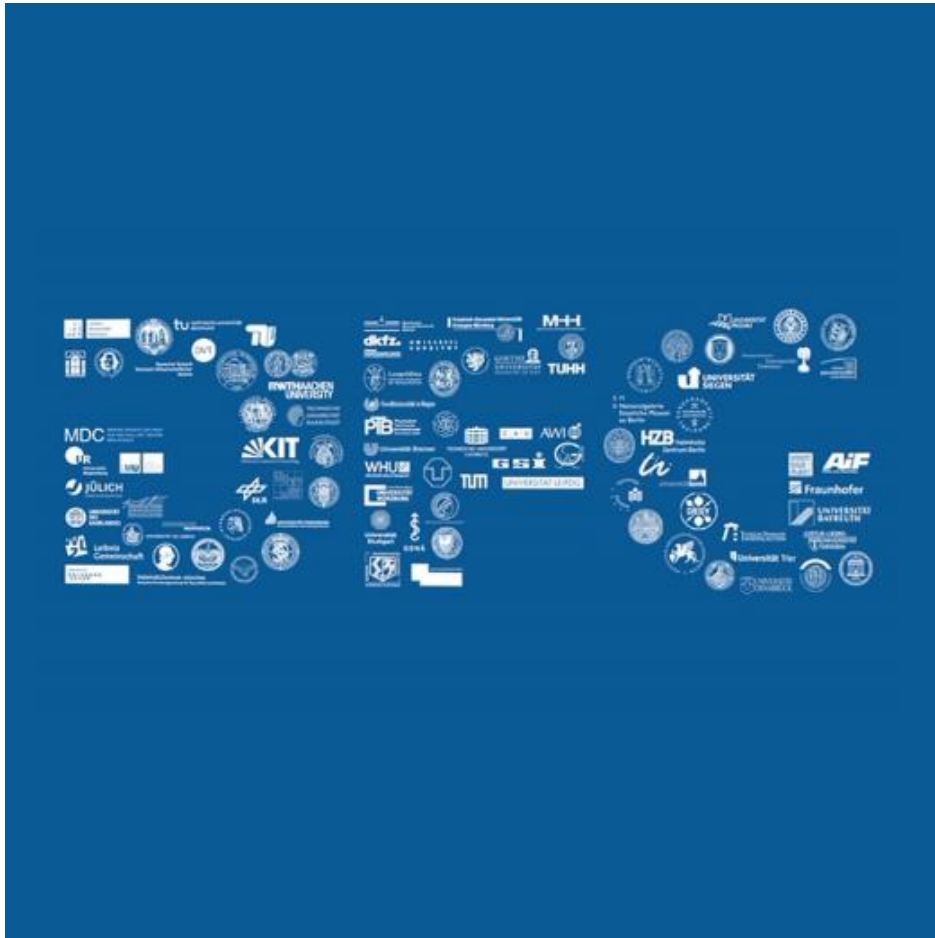
2 | The Heisenberg Programme

3 | Review Process and Advice

4 | Links and Resources

The DFG – About Us

<https://www.dfg.de/en/dfg-profile/about-the-dfg/what-is-the-dfg>



- ▶ The DFG is the largest **independent** and self-governing research **funding organisation** in Germany.
- ▶ It is an **association** under German private law.
- ▶ It serves **all branches** of science and the humanities by **funding research projects**.

The DFG – Our Mission

www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/about_the_dfg/what_is_the_dfg



The DFG

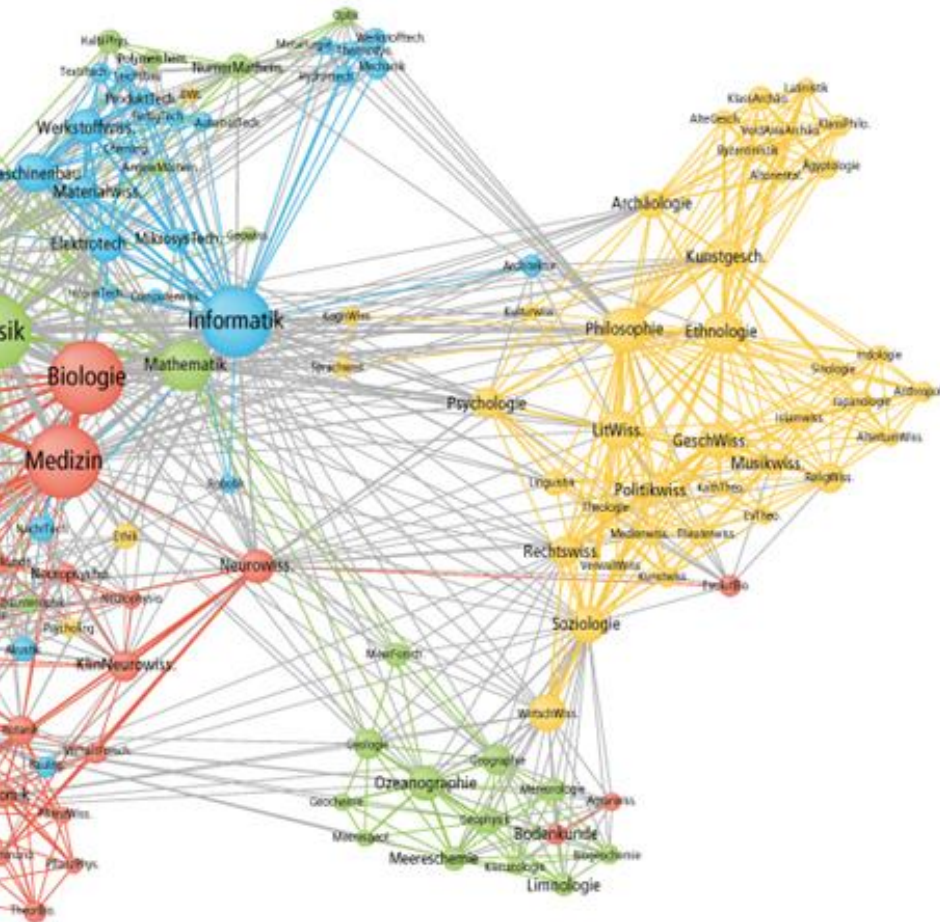
- ▶ funds research projects in the area of **knowledge-driven** research,
- ▶ maintains **dialogue** with society, politics and business, advises state institutions,
- ▶ supports the **transfer of knowledge**.

It takes particular care to promote

- ▶ international **cooperation**,
- ▶ **early career researchers**,
- ▶ **gender equality and diversity** in science and the humanities.

The DFG – In Numbers

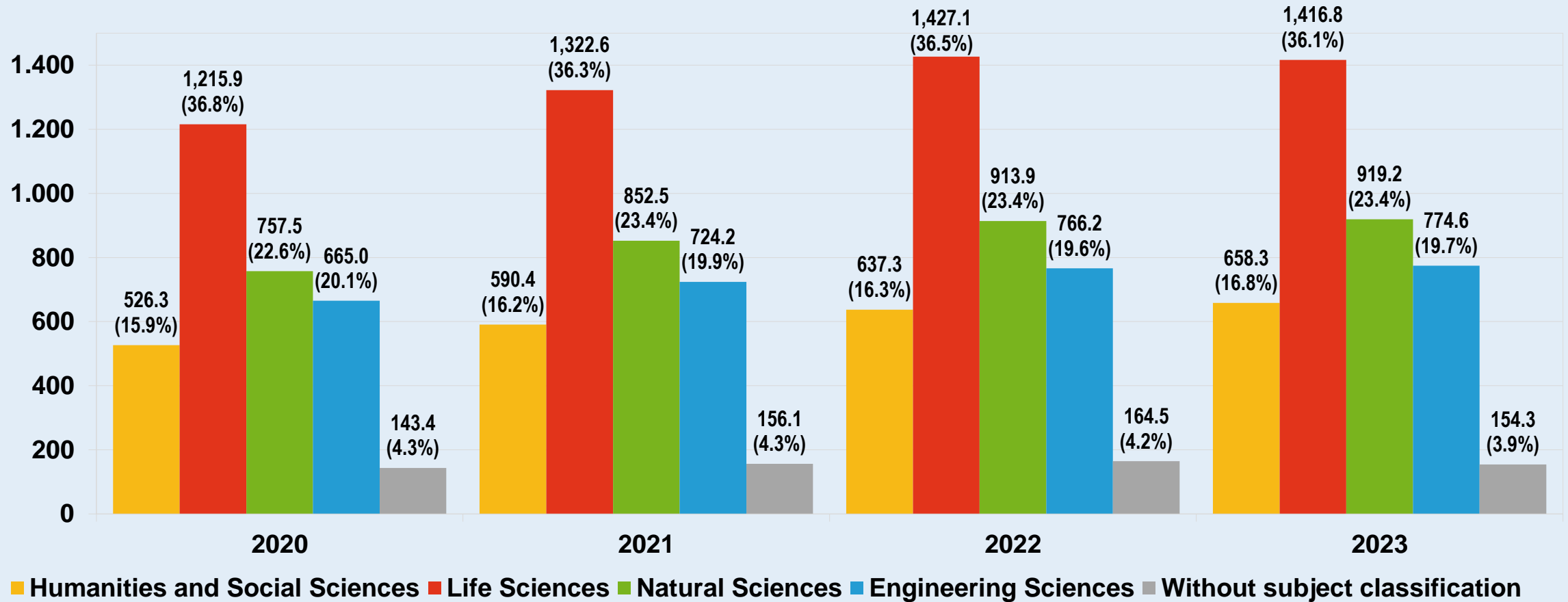
www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/facts_figures/statistics
<https://www.dfg.de/en/about-us/about-the-dfg/annual-report>



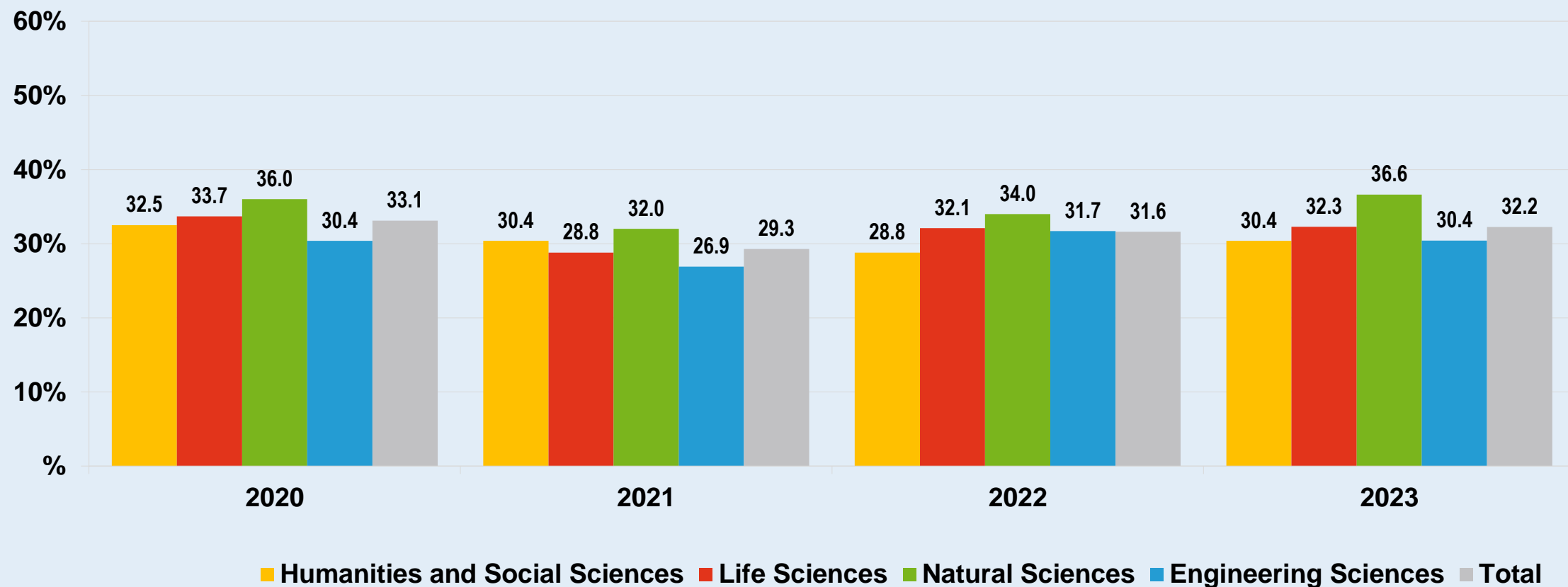
In 2023,

- ▶ the DFG funded around **31,400** running projects with a budget that totalled almost **€ 4 billion**
- ▶ the DFG came to **approx. 24.000** funding decisions based on peer-reviews by **15.300** reviewers
- ▶ Approx. **€ 1.3 billion** of the budget were spent for **13.325** individual grants projects

Amount of Research Funding Awarded by Scientific Discipline for Each Calendar Year 2020 to 2023 (in €m and %)



Funding Rates* in the Individual Grants Programme by Scientific Discipline 2020 to 2023 (in %)



* The funding rate (or success rate) was calculated by dividing the number of awards by the number of proposals reviewed.

Source: New Individual grants

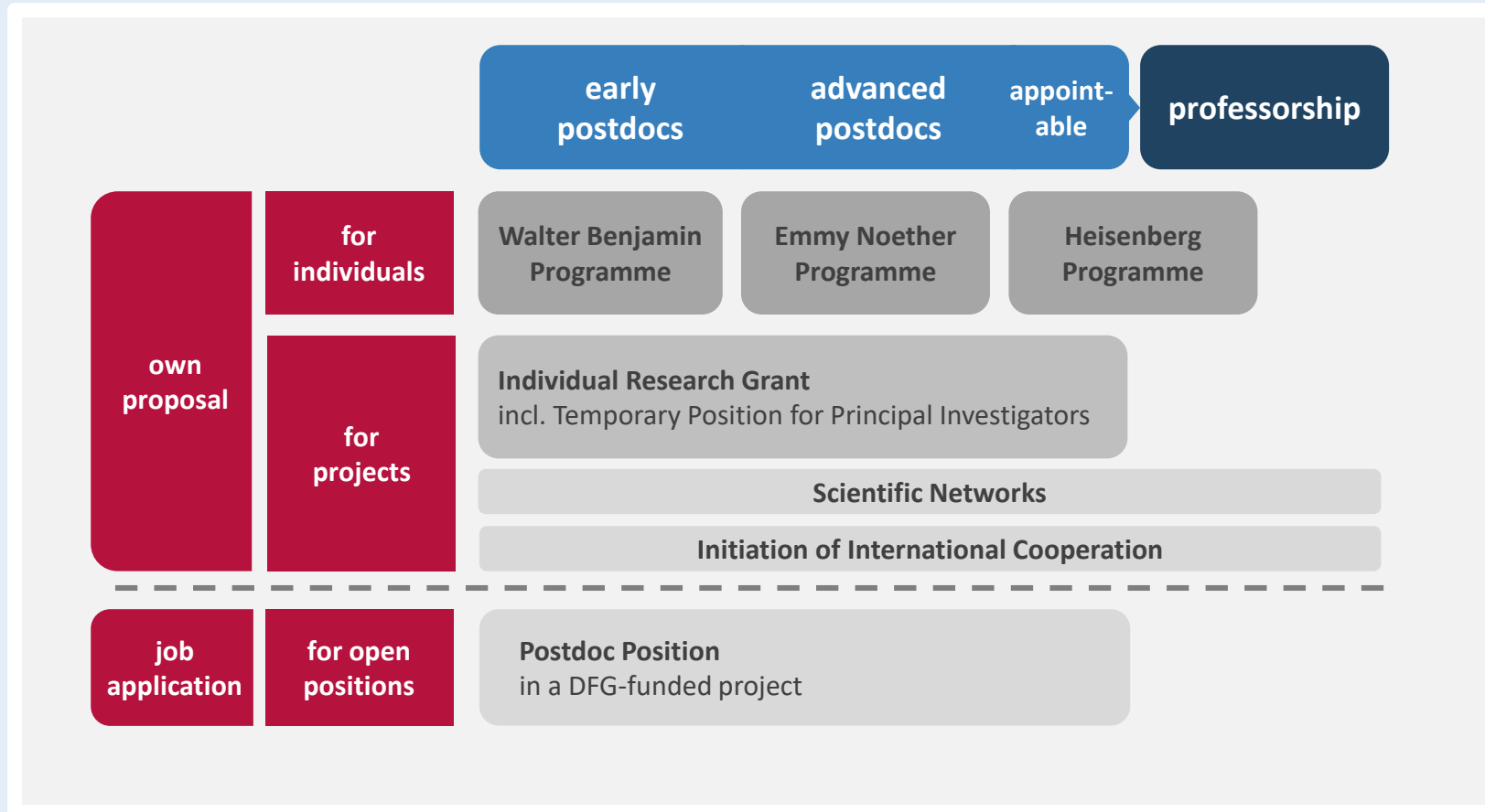


- ▶ Open, bottom-up choice of **research topics**
- ▶ **Basic research** in any field of science and the humanities
- ▶ No **age** restrictions
- ▶ Individual **career phases** and family-related career breaks are considered in the review process
- ▶ **Unbiased review** based on scientific criteria
- ▶ **10 Principles** of Effective Career Support in Academia
- ▶ No **deadlines***

excl. Priority Programmes, international calls, Workshops for Early Career Investigators etc.

DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/research_careers
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes



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Heisenberg Programme



Programme
information, FAQ,
forms and guidelines
are available [here](#)



Eligibility

Meeting all the requirements for appointment to a long-term professorship



Purpose

To enable outstanding researchers to prepare for a senior academic role



Location

In Germany or abroad



Duration

Max. 5 years



Heisenberg fellowship



Heisenberg professorship



Heisenberg position



Heisenberg temporary substitute
position for clinicians

+ flexible research funding or a general allowance (fellowship)



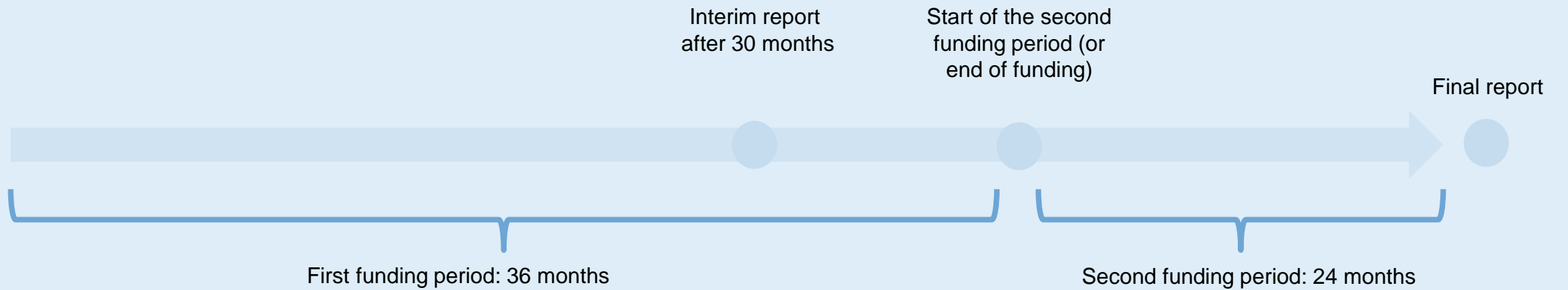
Heisenberg



Individual Research Grant

- ▶ Individual Research Grant: Funding for project costs/staff etc. (compatible with Heisenberg funding)
- ▶ Submission possible any time
- ▶ If you require the Individual Research Grant right at the beginning of your Heisenberg funding period
→ please submit both applications simultaneously

Total duration: 5 years (60 months)



Success rate
Applications between 2020 and 2023

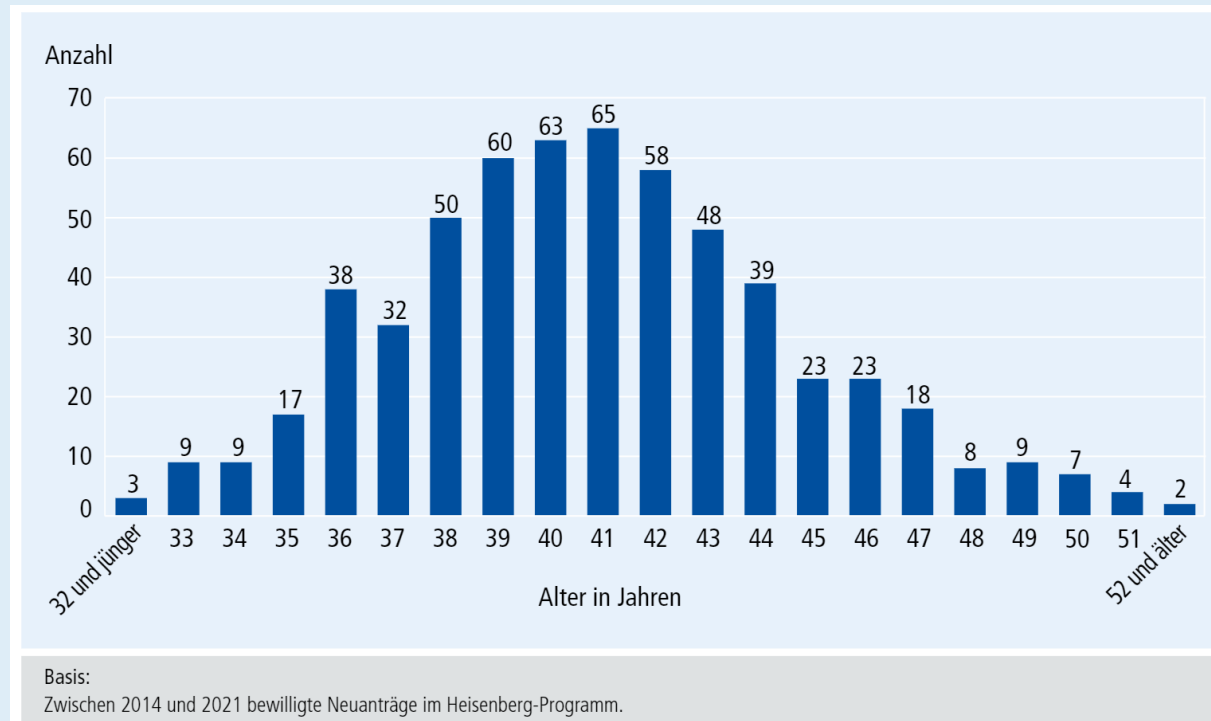


37.6%



DFG
Annual Report 2023

Age structure among successful Heisenberg applicants Period: 2014 to 2021



[Statistical information
on the development of
the Heisenberg
Programme](#)

Eligibility

Eligibility

Who is eligible to apply?

Emmy Noether Programme
(or other group leaders)

Junior professors
(with positive evaluations)

Foreign researchers

**Researchers who meet all the
requirements for appointment to
a long-term professorship**

Completed habilitation

Qualifications equivalent to a
habilitation
(z.B. publication record, list placement for a
professorship etc.)

(DFG financed-) post doc positions

Eligibility

Who is not eligible to apply?



- ▶ Tenure track professors (in Germany)
- ▶ Those with positions equivalent to W2/W3 (positions in Germany)

Other permanent positions (e.g. Akademische Rätin or Akademischer Rat) do not impede the eligibility

Permanent professors (e.g. associate professors) from abroad are eligible as long as they have not achieved a full professorship yet

Heisenberg funding types

Funding types



▶ Heisenberg fellowship



▶ Heisenberg position



▶ Heisenberg temporary substitute position for clinicians



▶ Heisenberg professorship



▶ Heisenberg fellowship

- Research at an academic institution in Germany or another country
- Fellowship (currently €4.450 per month) + general allowance (€250 per month) + childcare allowance + foreign allowance
- **Required documents:** A declaration issued by the host institution confirming the position and the core support specific to the project



▶ Heisenberg position

- Position (E 14 Stufe 5 to E 15 Stufe 4) und flexible research funding (€1000 per month)
- Research at an academic institution in Germany or a German academic institution in another country (e.g. Max Planck Institute in Italy)
- Research stay(s) at foreign academic institutions outside of Germany possible for a maximum of 1/3 of the funding duration (usually 20 months)
- **Required documents:** Arbeitgebererklärung (DFG form 41.04; only available in German)

Funding types



▶ Heisenberg temporary substitute position for clinicians

- Funds for temporary substitute (Ä 1 Stufe 2 to Ä 2 Stufe 1) and flexible research funding (€1000 per month)
- Substitute staff takes over the patient-care responsibilities for the Heisenberg position holder
- Heisenberg position holder may work full-time or part-time (at least 49%) on the Heisenberg project
- **Required documents:** informal letter from current institution (confirming the existing employment relationship and release from patient care); the academic institution must confirm the specific core support required for the project



▶ Heisenberg professorship

- Temporary professorship (W2 or W3) and flexible research funding (€1000 per month)
- The university must give a binding statement that after the DFG funding period ends it will transfer the Heisenberg professorship permanently to its own budget (in case of positive DFG and university mid-term evaluation)
- **Required documents:** proof of appointment (e.g. a declaration issued by the employing institution or a certificate of appointment); declaration regarding the continuation of the professorship; declaration regarding the core support specific to the project

Funding types

- ▶ Flexible research funding

- Examples:



travel costs



conferences



publication costs (incl. open access)



staff (e.g. research assistants)

- ▶ Additional funding for publication costs



Should the appropriate publication of your research findings made within the context of the Heisenberg grant call for a book format with high production costs, you may apply for additional funding of up to €5,000 per year. The request must be justified accordingly.

During the funding period

During the funding period



Change of funding type and/or institution

- ▶ Change possible any time except for the last year (please reach out for individual advice)
- ▶ Multiple changes possible

- ▶ Change from Heisenberg fellowship to other funding types is possible; change to a Heisenberg fellowship (after you started the grant with another funding type) is not possible



During the funding period



Interruptions

- ▶ You may pause the fund for a maximum of one year
- ▶ Important: The DFG must approve your interruption plans



Part-time

- ▶ Reduction possible (up to 50% of a full-time position)
- ▶ In cases of illness, childcare or other family care duties
- ▶ Important: The DFG must approve your part-time plans

During the funding period



Extensions

- ▶ The Heisenberg funding cannot be extended
- ▶ Exception: cost-neutral extension if cases of interruptions/part-time

Application process

Application process

**Guidelines Heisenberg
Programme**
(form 50.03)

**Proposal Preparation
Instructions**
(form 54.02)

Project Description
(form 53.19)



Application process

Project Description

Academic profile

What have you worked on so far?

What qualifies you for a long-term professorship?

Research project(s)

Which projects would you like to work on during the Heisenberg funding period?

Application process



- ▶ You may submit your application any time
- ▶ In German or English
- ▶ Via the DFG's [elan-Portal](#)
- ▶ Processing your application takes around 8 months

Application process



▶ Which Heisenberg funding type are you aiming for?



▶ At which university/research institution would you like to work?

Application process



- ▶ Submission of your application
- ▶ Are you applying for an Individual Research Grant as well?



- ▶ Choosing your Heisenberg funding type (max. 6 months after receiving the congratulations letter)
- ▶ Starting your grant (max. 12 months after receiving the congratulations letter)

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Preparing Your CV

www.dfg.de/formulare/53_200_elan/53_200_en_elan.rtf
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/tips_proposals
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/proposal_information



- ▶ DFG CV template
 - Include prizes, fellowships and awards
 - Mention time away from research relating e.g. to family, illness or dependent care; no details required
- ▶ List up to ten of your most important publications

Submitting Your Proposal via *elan*

<https://elan.dfg.de/my.policy>
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/proposal_information

DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft

Anmeldung / Login

E-Mail Adresse /
Email address:

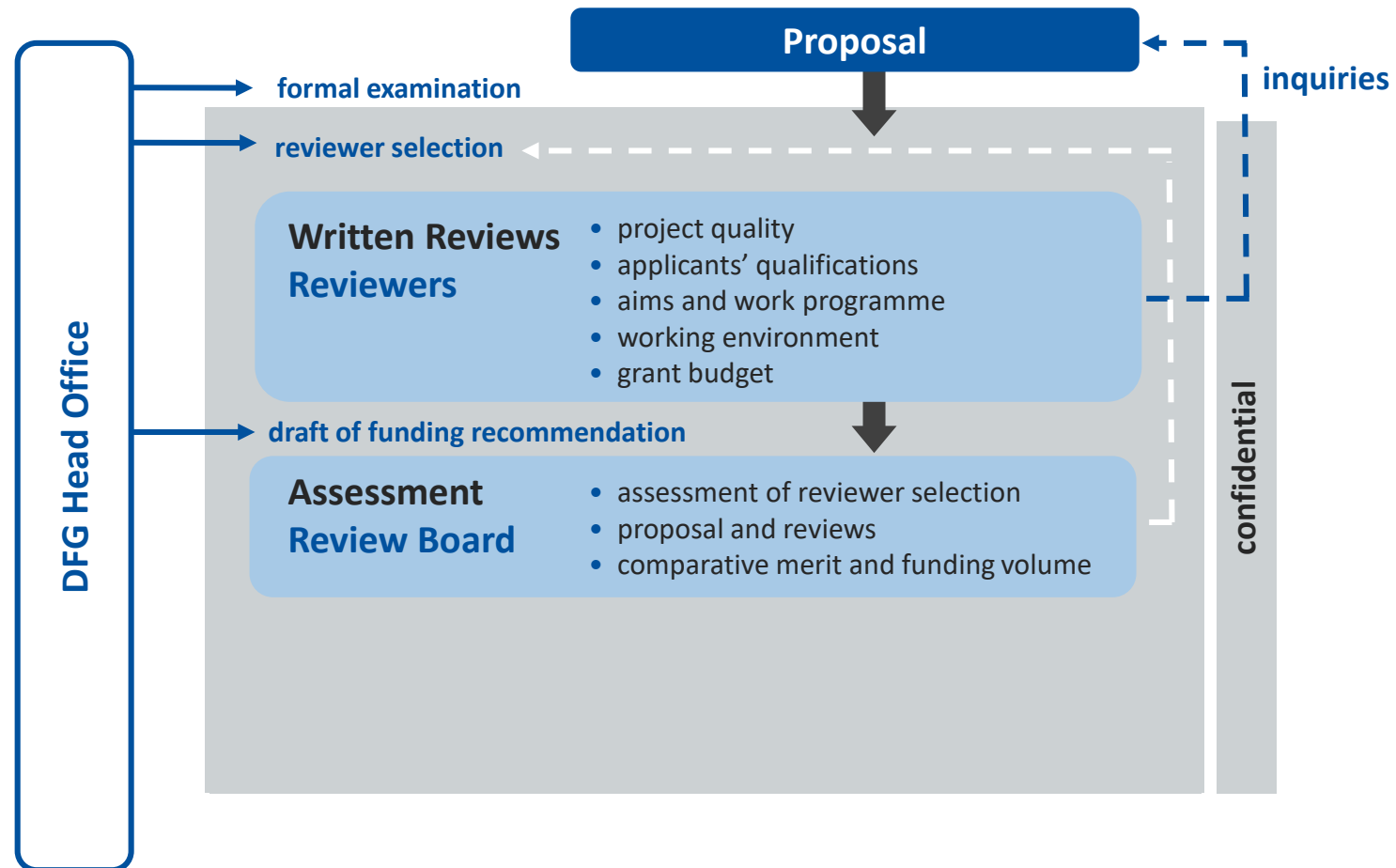
Kennwort /
Password:

Sprache wählen /
Select language: Deutsch
 English

E-Mail Adresse speichern /
Save email address:

Review Process in the Individual Grants Programme

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/arriving_decision



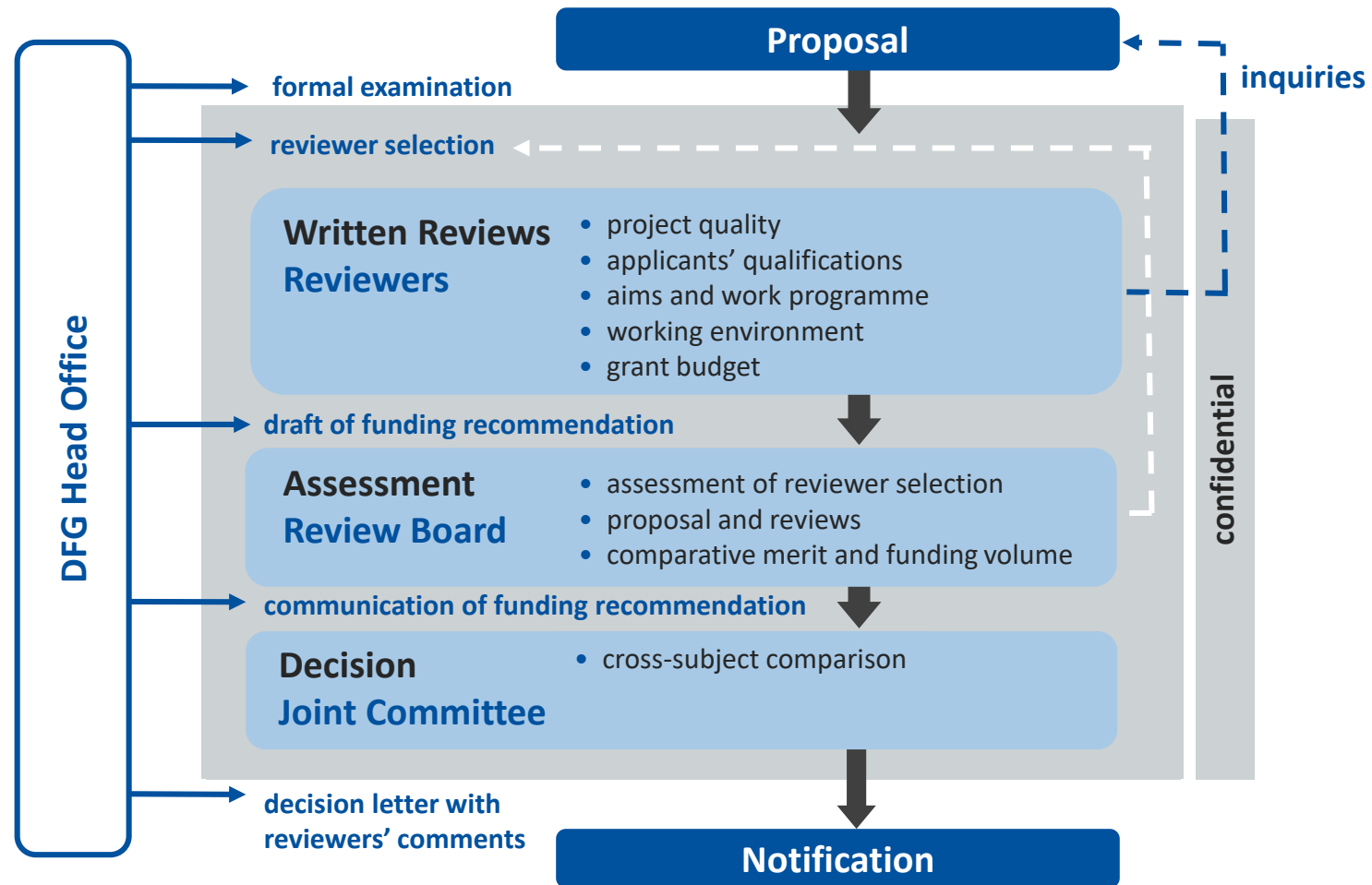
Review Boards (*Fachkollegien*)

www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/statutory_bodies/review_boards



Review Process in the Individual Grants Programme

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/arriving_decision



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Links and Resources



- ▶ The Heisenberg Programme:
www.dfg.de/en/research-funding/funding-opportunities/programmes/individual/heisenberg
- ▶ Orientation for early-career researchers:
www.dfg.de/research_careers
- ▶ Individual Grants Programmes – A How-To Guide:
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes
- ▶ GEPRIS – database with all DFG-funded projects: gepris.dfg.de/en

