



DFG

DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

Information presented on the following slides are valid on 26th March, 2025.
Please check www.dfg.de/en for updates and current regulations.

26/03/2025

Anna Böhme, Anjana Buckow, Margret Heinze

1 | The DFG – About Us

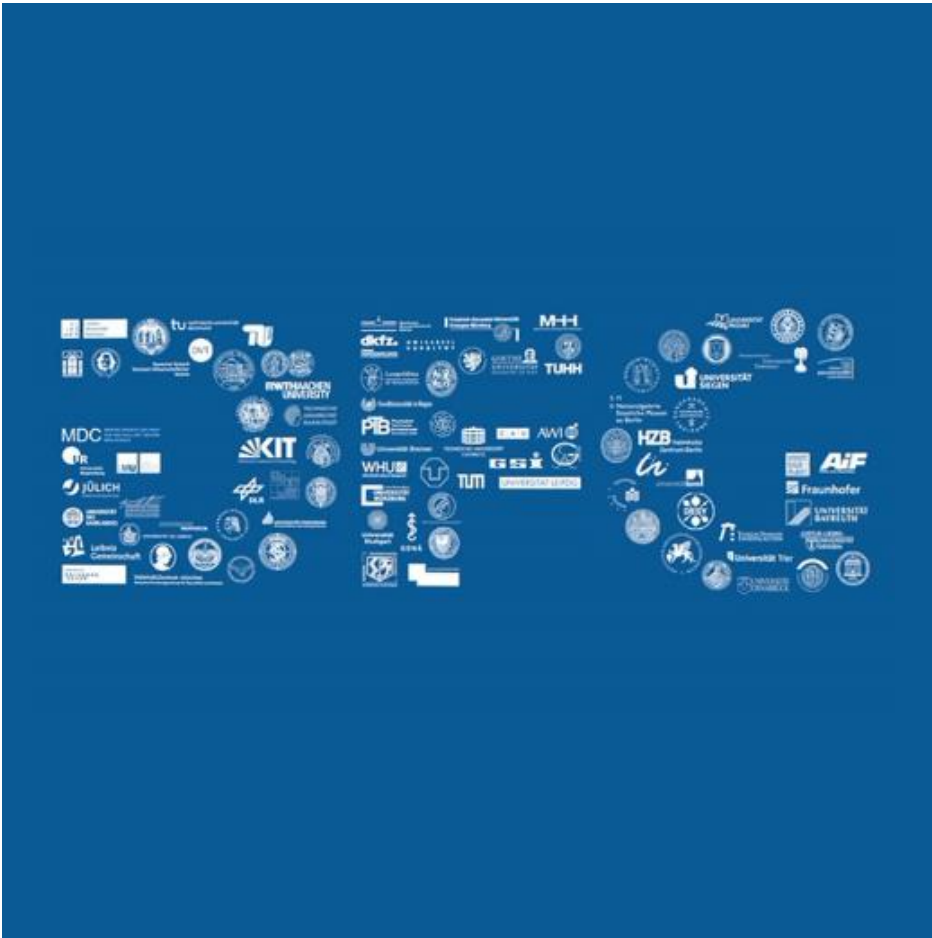
2 | DFG Funding Opportunities

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

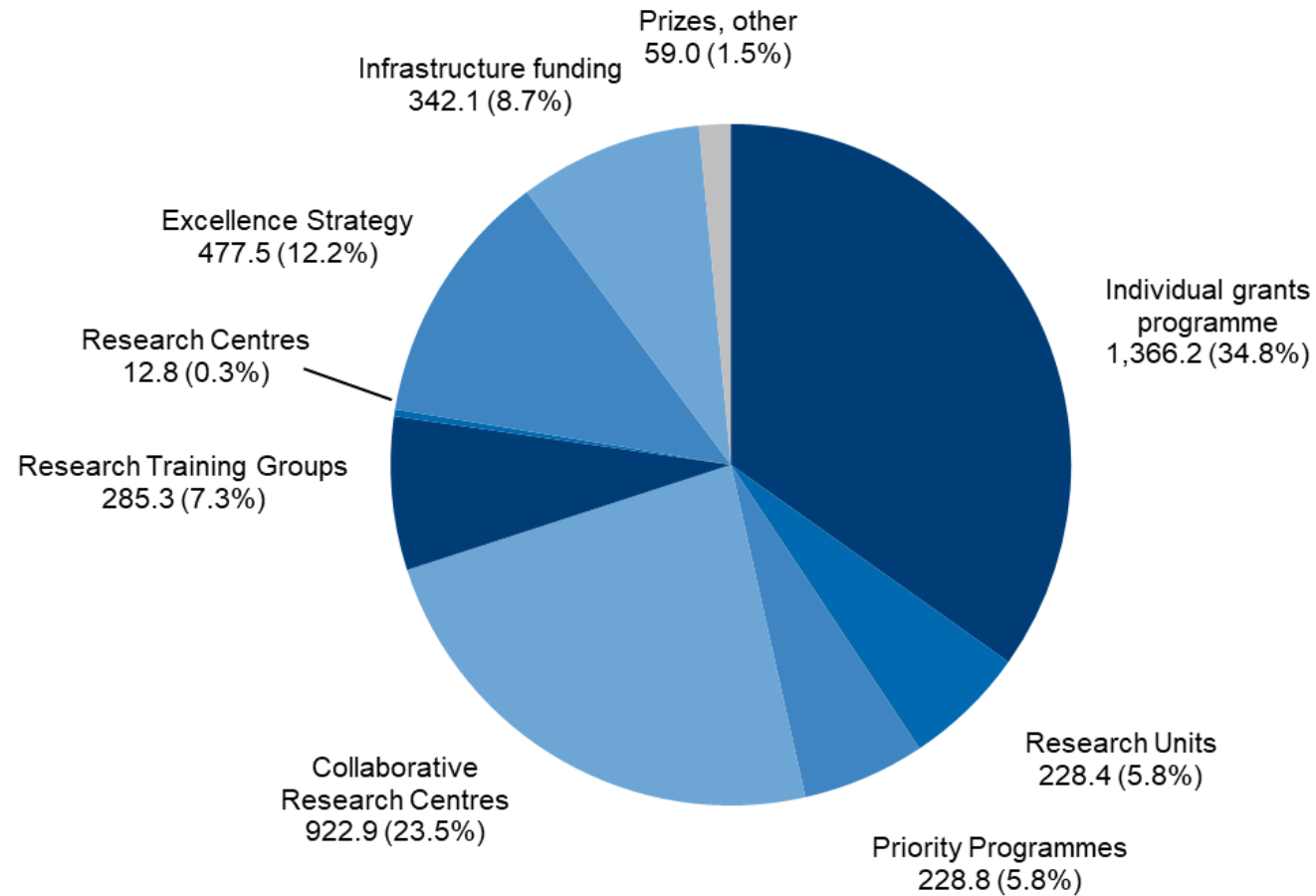
- ▶ funds research projects in the area of **knowledge-driven** research,
- ▶ maintains **dialogue** with society, politics and business, advises state institutions,
- ▶ supports the **transfer of knowledge**.

It takes particular care to promote

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

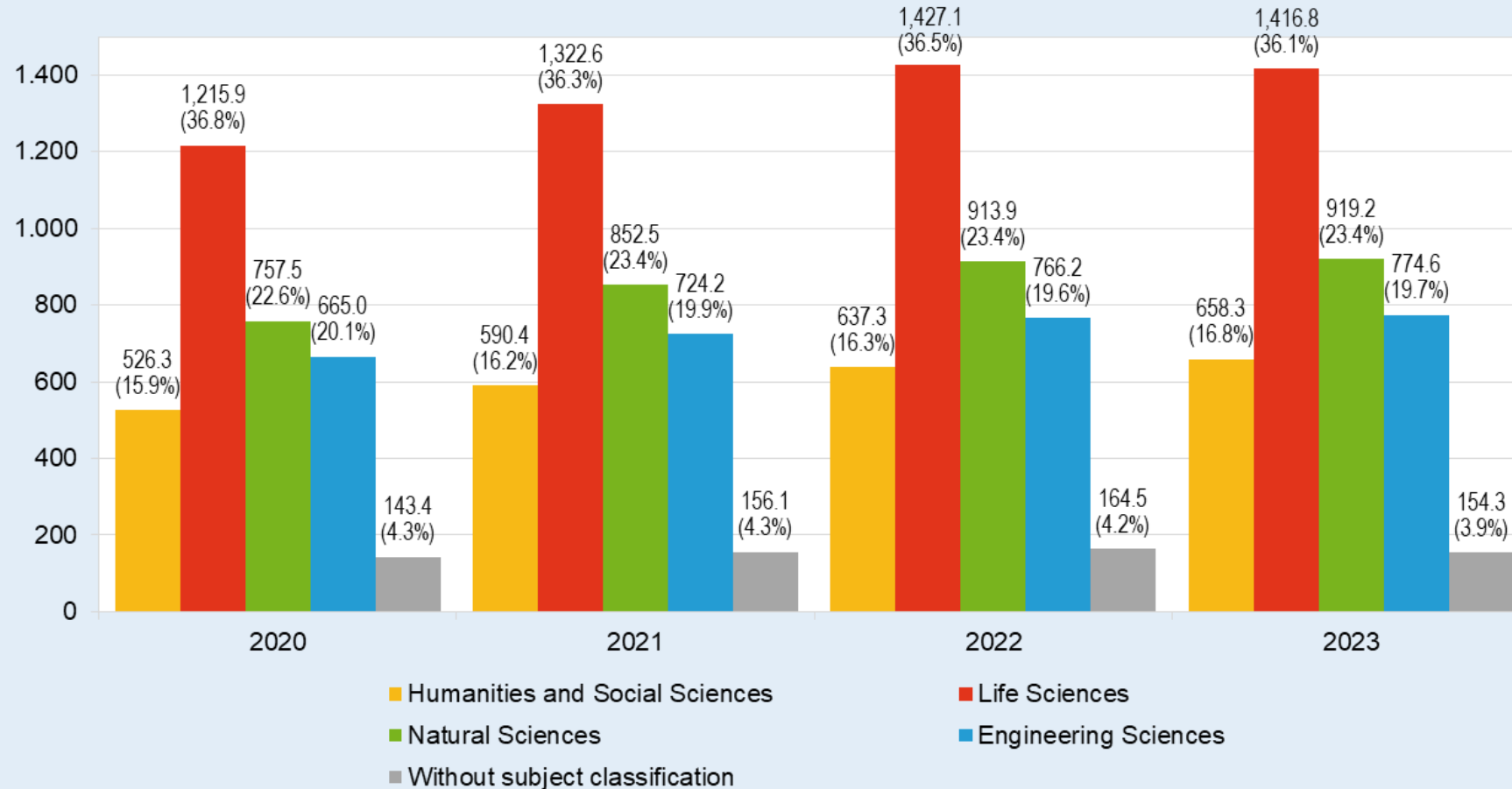
Amount of Research Funding Awarded by Programme in 2023 (in €m and %)

www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/facts_figures/statistics



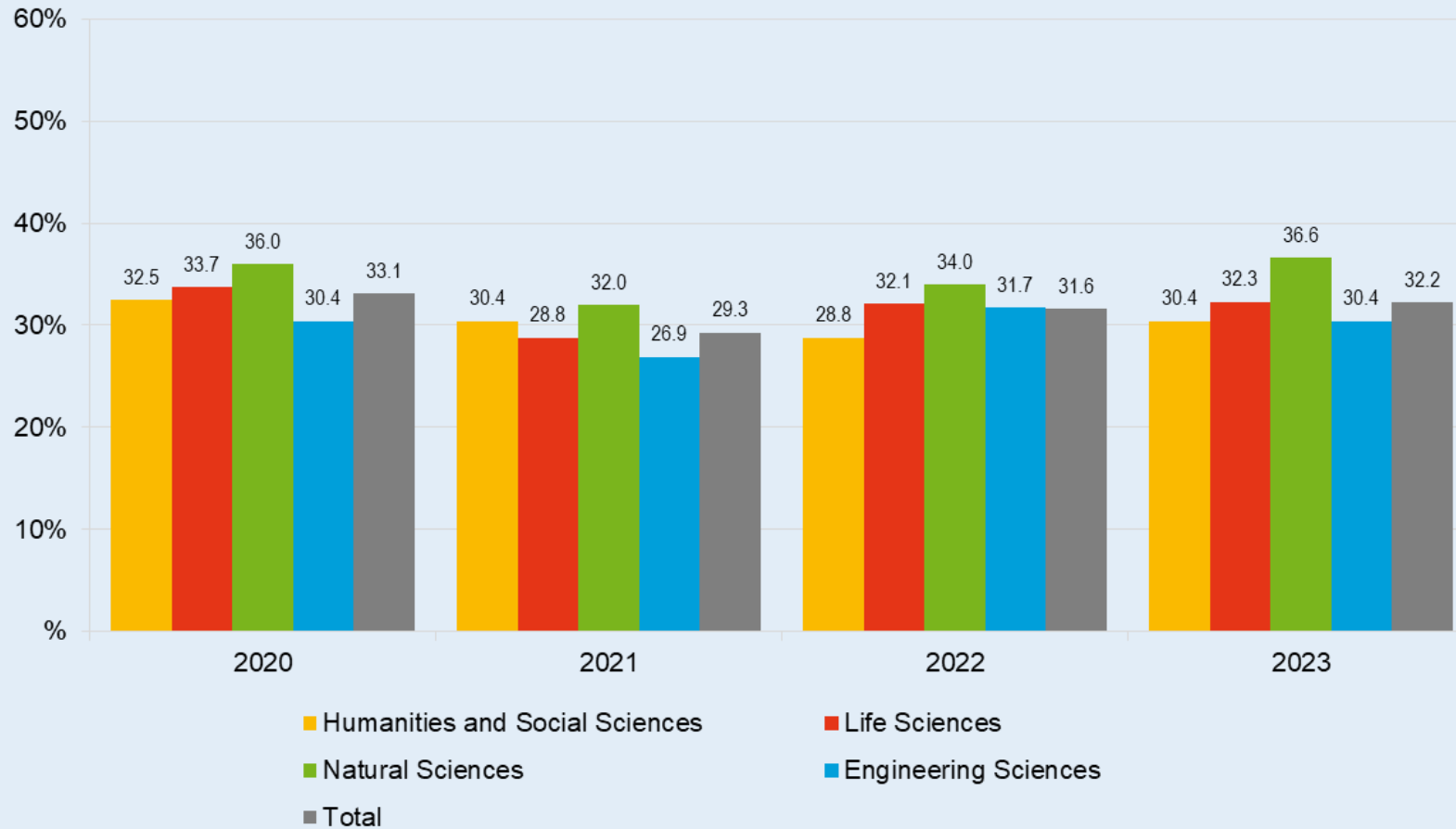
Amount of Research Funding Awarded by Scientific Discipline for Each Calendar Year 2020 to 2023 (in €m and %)

www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/facts_figures/statistics



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

www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/facts_figures/statistics/processing_times_success_rates





Researchers

- ▶ who have completed their scientific training, i.e. who hold a **doctorate** and
- ▶ who (would like to) work in **Germany**.



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

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

Topics

1 | The DFG – About Us

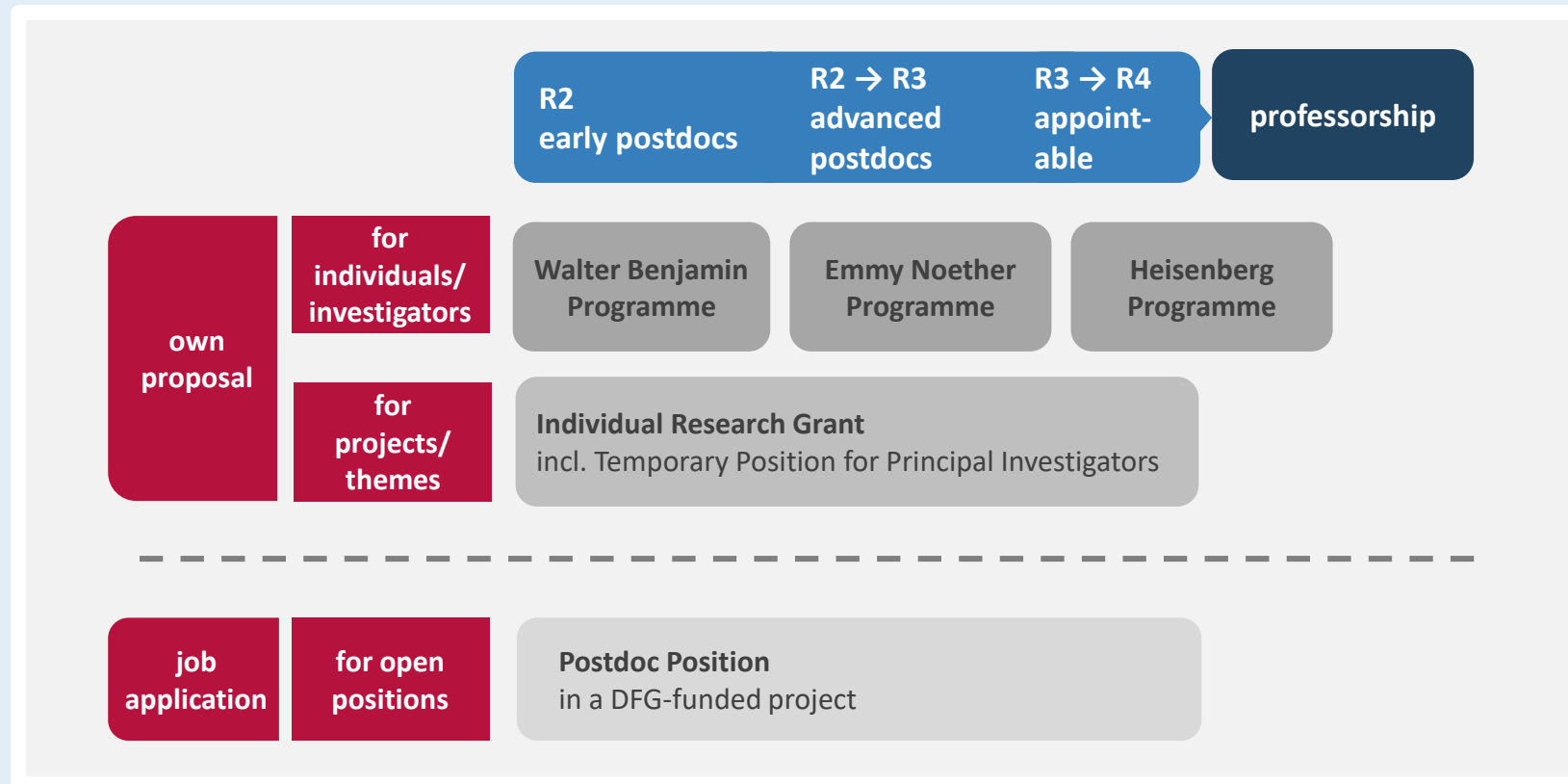
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DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

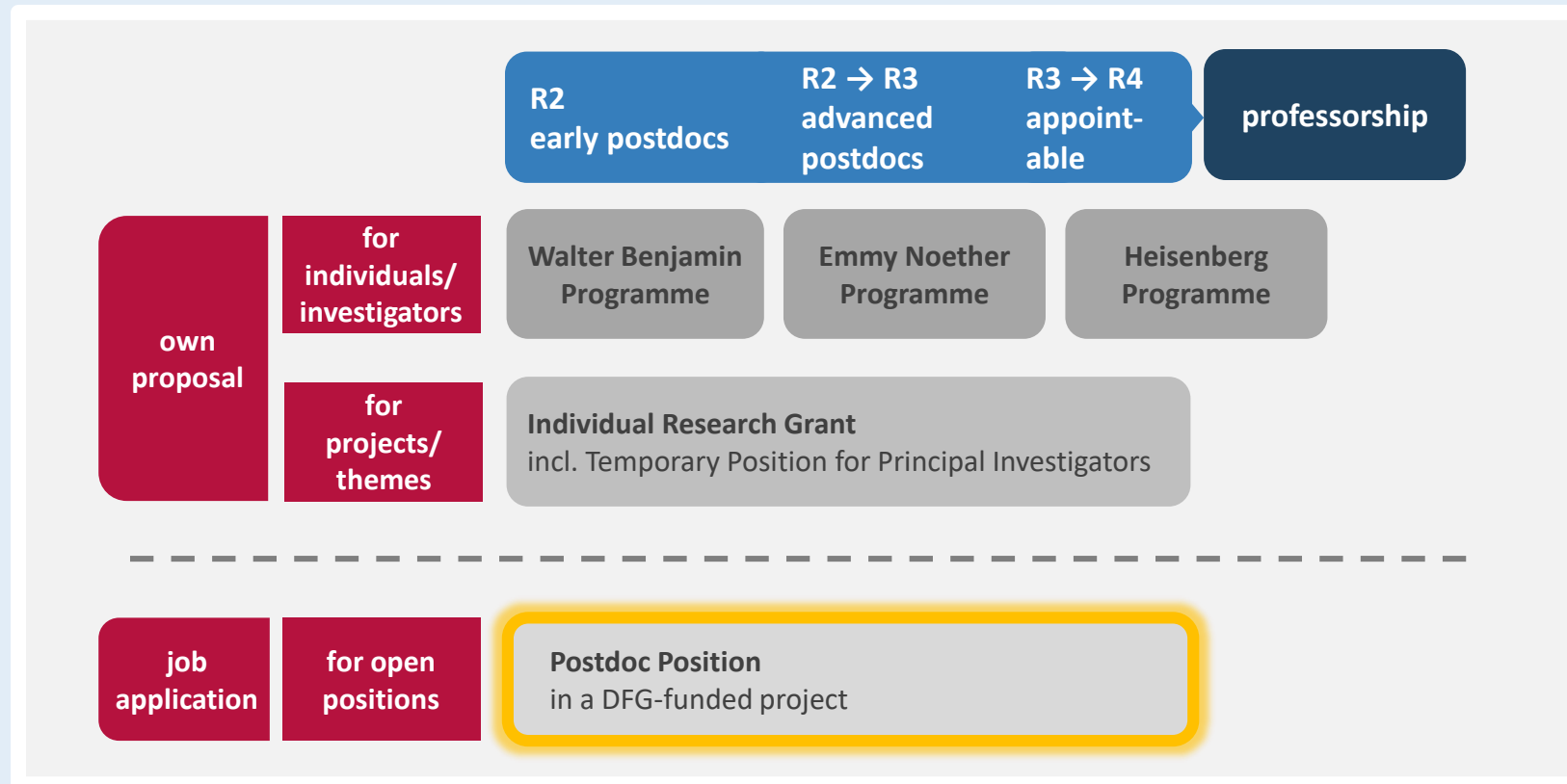
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/research_careers
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes



R1 to R4 according to the European research profiles descriptors, see <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/career-development/researchers>

DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

DFG, German Research Foundation - Research Careers: After your PhD



Positions in a DFG-Funded Project

<https://gepris.dfg.de/gepris/OCTOPUS?language=en>

Positions for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers (R1, R2 [+R3]) in DFG-funded projects:

- ▶ **Duration** of funding depends on the project
- ▶ **Employer:** A university or research institute in Germany
- ▶ **Position:** E13-E14 TvöD/TV-L
- ▶ **Apply** to the project's PI

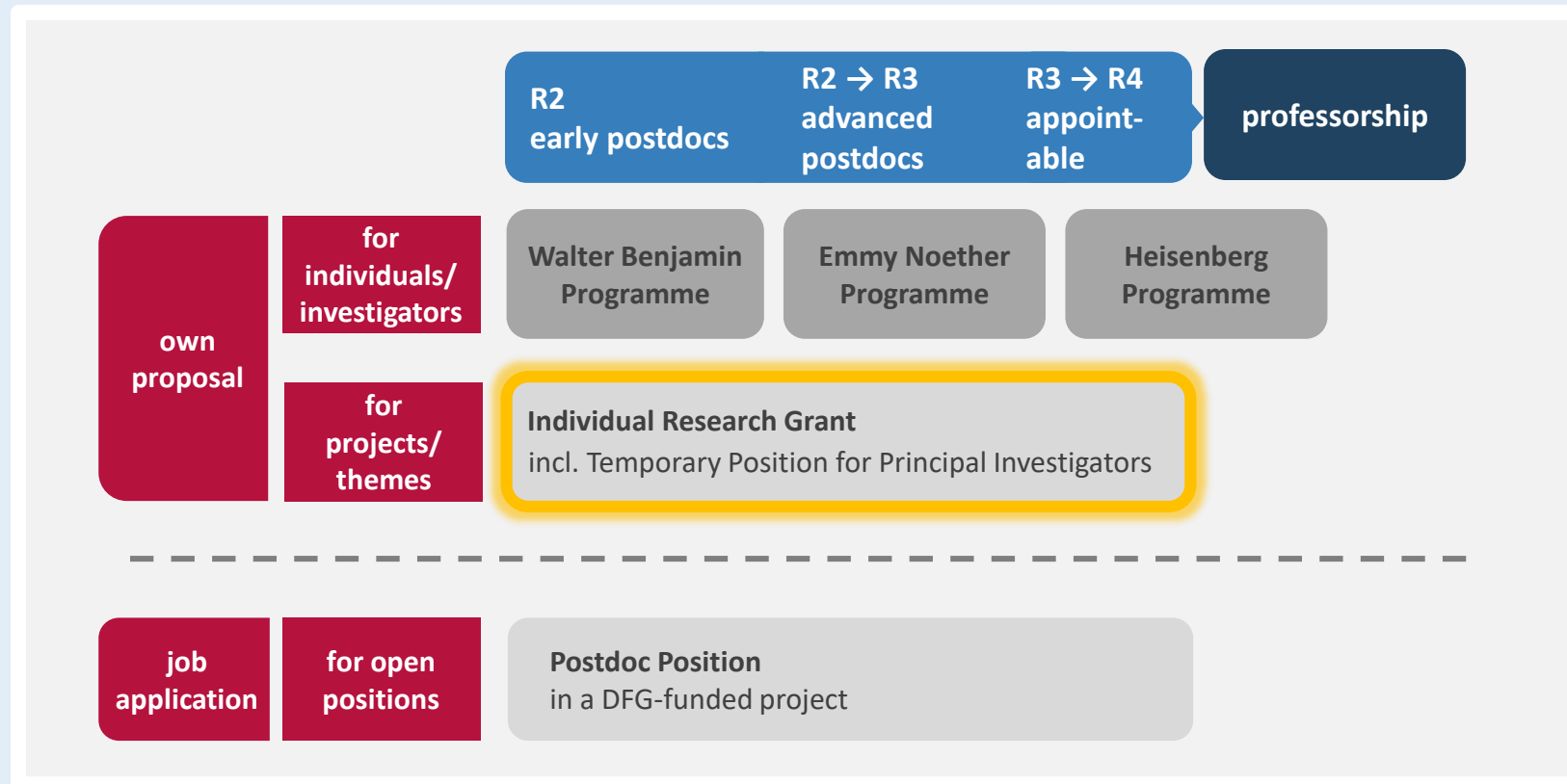


www.gepris.dfg.de

- ▶ Individual projects
- ▶ Research Units
- ▶ Priority Programmes
- ▶ Collaborative Research Centres
- ▶ Research Training Groups

DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

<https://www.dfg.de/en/research-funding/funding-opportunities/programmes/individual/research-grants>



Individual Research Grant

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes/individual/research_grants
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/faq/faq_temporary_positions



- ▶ Individual Research Grants offer you an opportunity to pursue **your research project in Germany**
- ▶ Career phase R2-R3
- ▶ Funding generally for up to **three years**
- ▶ Your **host institution** becomes your **employer**
- ▶ Flexible **funding modules**:
 - Staff, consumables, travel
 - Instrumentation, publication funding, public relations
 - ...
 - module »**Temporary Position for Principal Investigators**« E13-E14 TVöD/TV-L

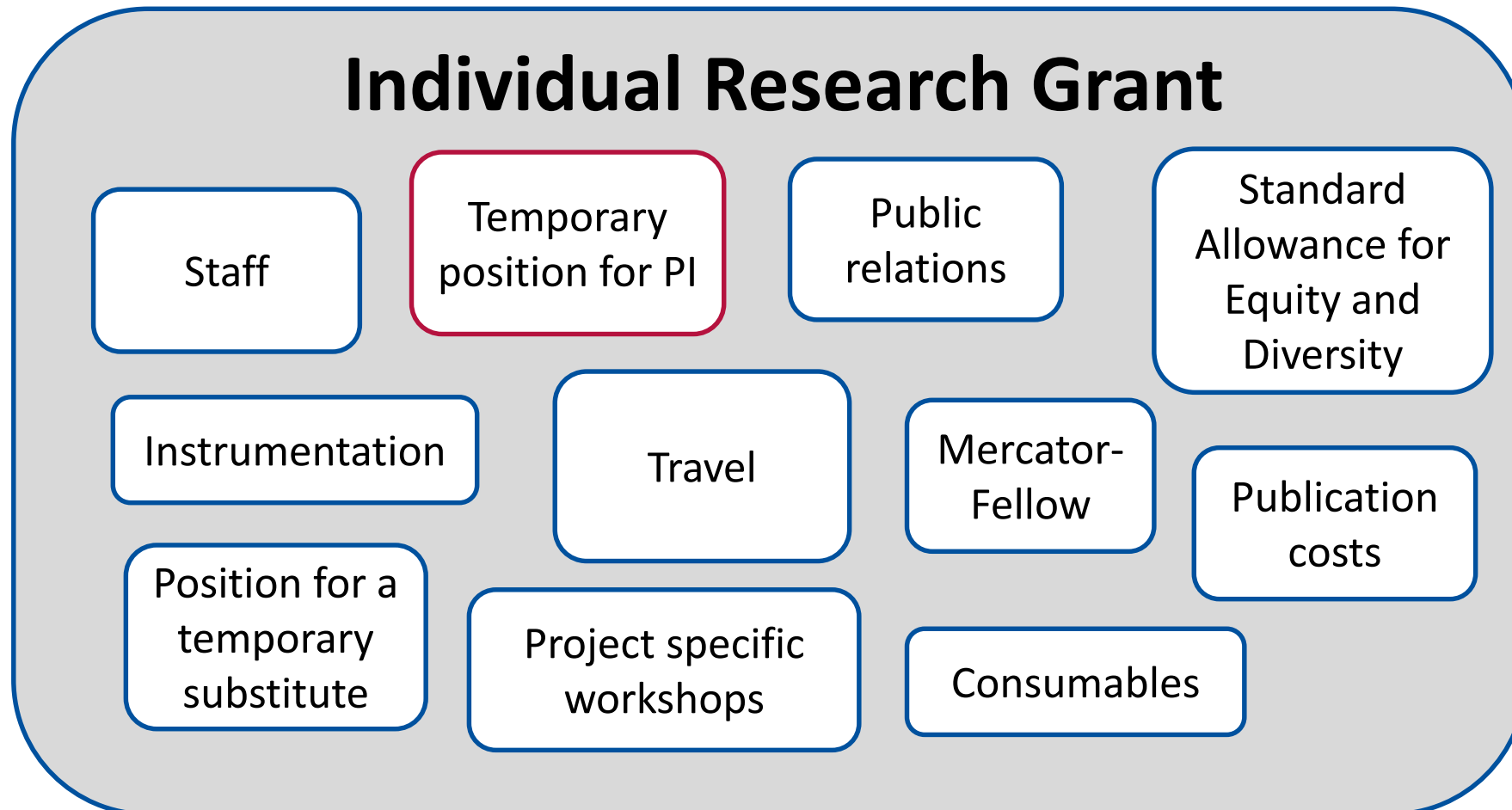
Individual Research Grant

Module Structure

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes/individual/research_grants

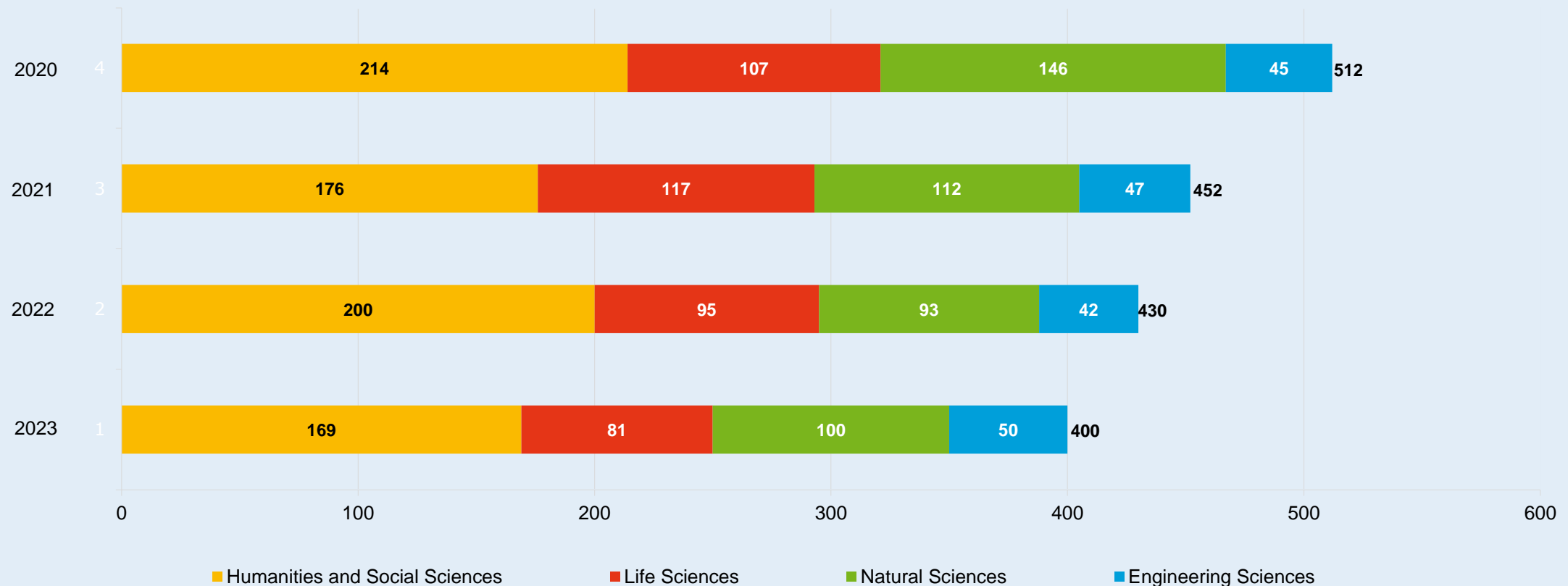
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/faq/faq_temporary_positions

Individual Research Grant



New Awards in the Temporary Positions for Principal Investigators Scheme by Scientific Discipline 2020 to 2023

www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/facts_figures/statistics

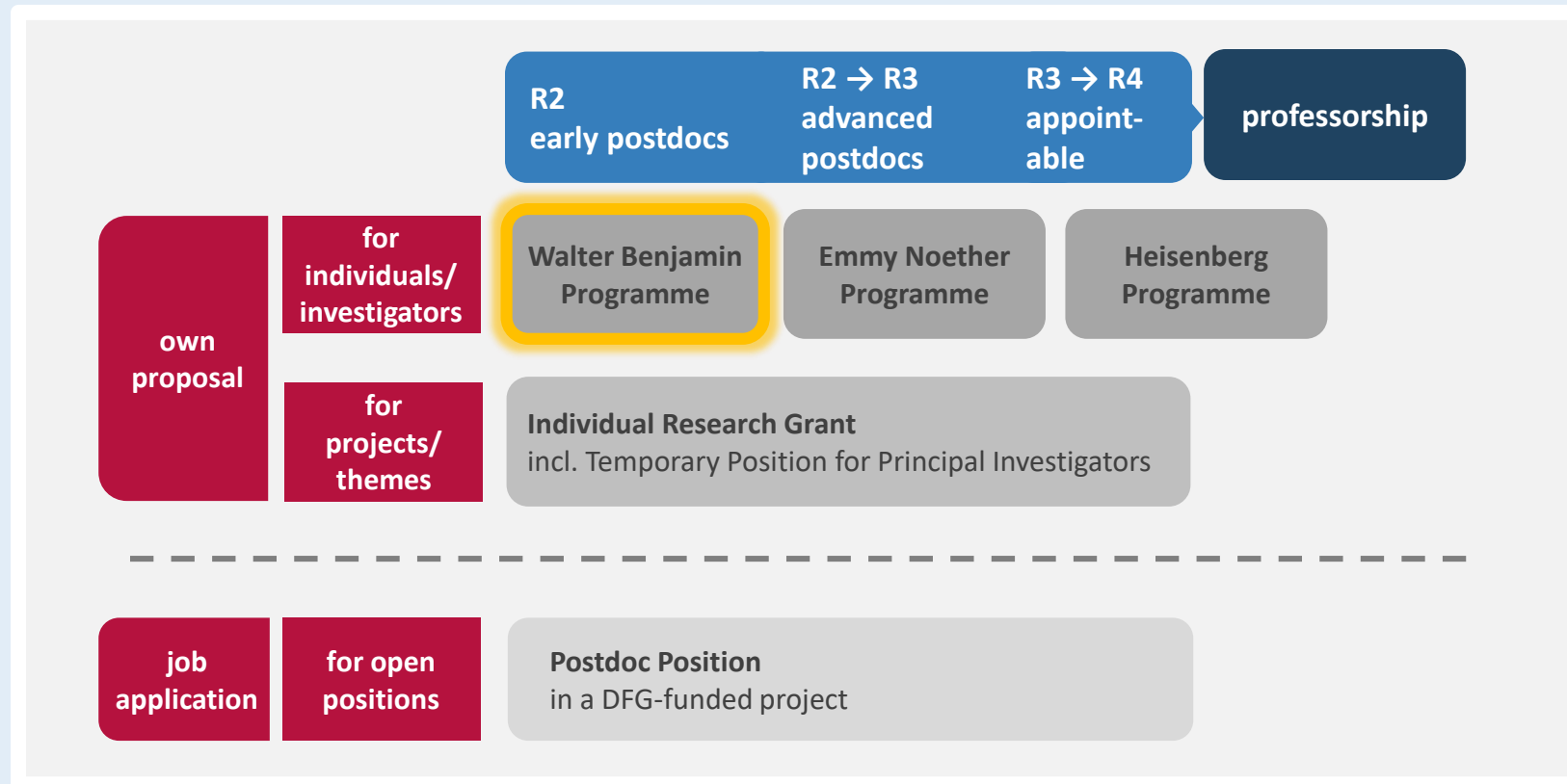


DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/research_careers

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes/individual/walter_benjamin





- ▶ **Aim:** Promoting **autonomy and mobility** in an **early postdoc phase**
- ▶ Career Phase R2
- ▶ **Mobility:** applicants should move to a **new institution**, either abroad or in Germany – or combining stays at different places
- ▶ **Career support:** host researcher advises you on your research career and introduces you to academic networks
- ▶ **Funding duration:** up to two years

Option for
incomings

In Germany

Position: E13 TVöD/TV-L

(or position for temporary substitutes for clinicians)

You are employed by your host institution

Abroad

Fellowship: 1,750 €/month +X

+ foreign allowance

+ cost of living allowance

+ child allowance (if applicable)

+ possibility of 6-months return grant

→ use the award calculator on the DFG website

- ▶ **Allowance for direct project costs:** 250 €/month
→ host institution needs to provide all additional project costs



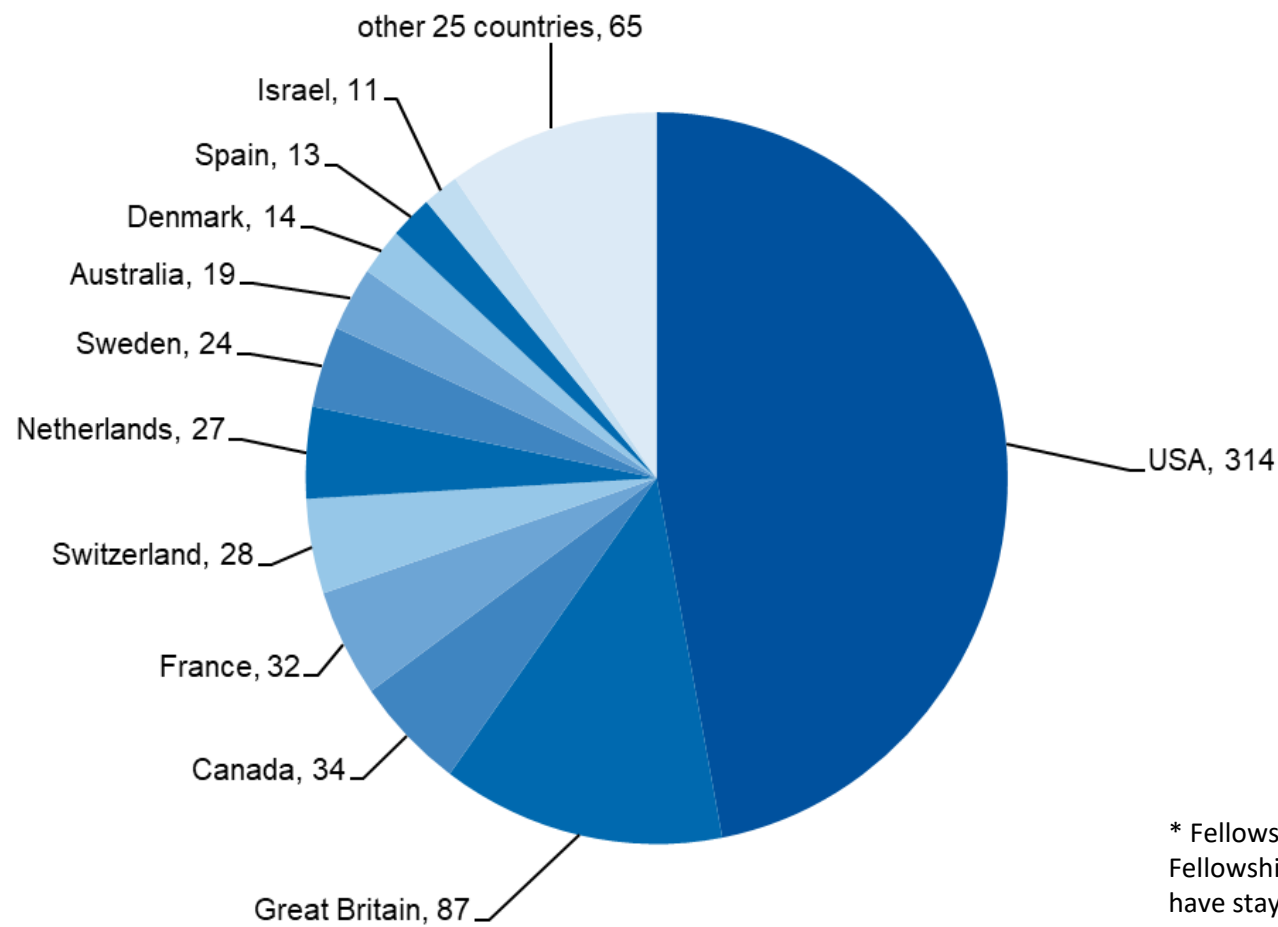
Position in Germany:

- ▶ Support through *Bundeselterngeld- und Elternzeitgesetz (BEEG)*

Fellowship abroad:

- ▶ **child allowance**
 - + € 400 per month for the first child
 - + € 100 per month for each additional child
- ▶ The fellowship can be **extended** by max. 12 months or costs for **childcare** can be reimbursed
 - Up to 12 x € 1,750 = max. € 21,000
 - Childcare costs must be verified by presenting invoices and payment receipts
- ▶ Extension and reimbursement of childcare costs can be **combined**

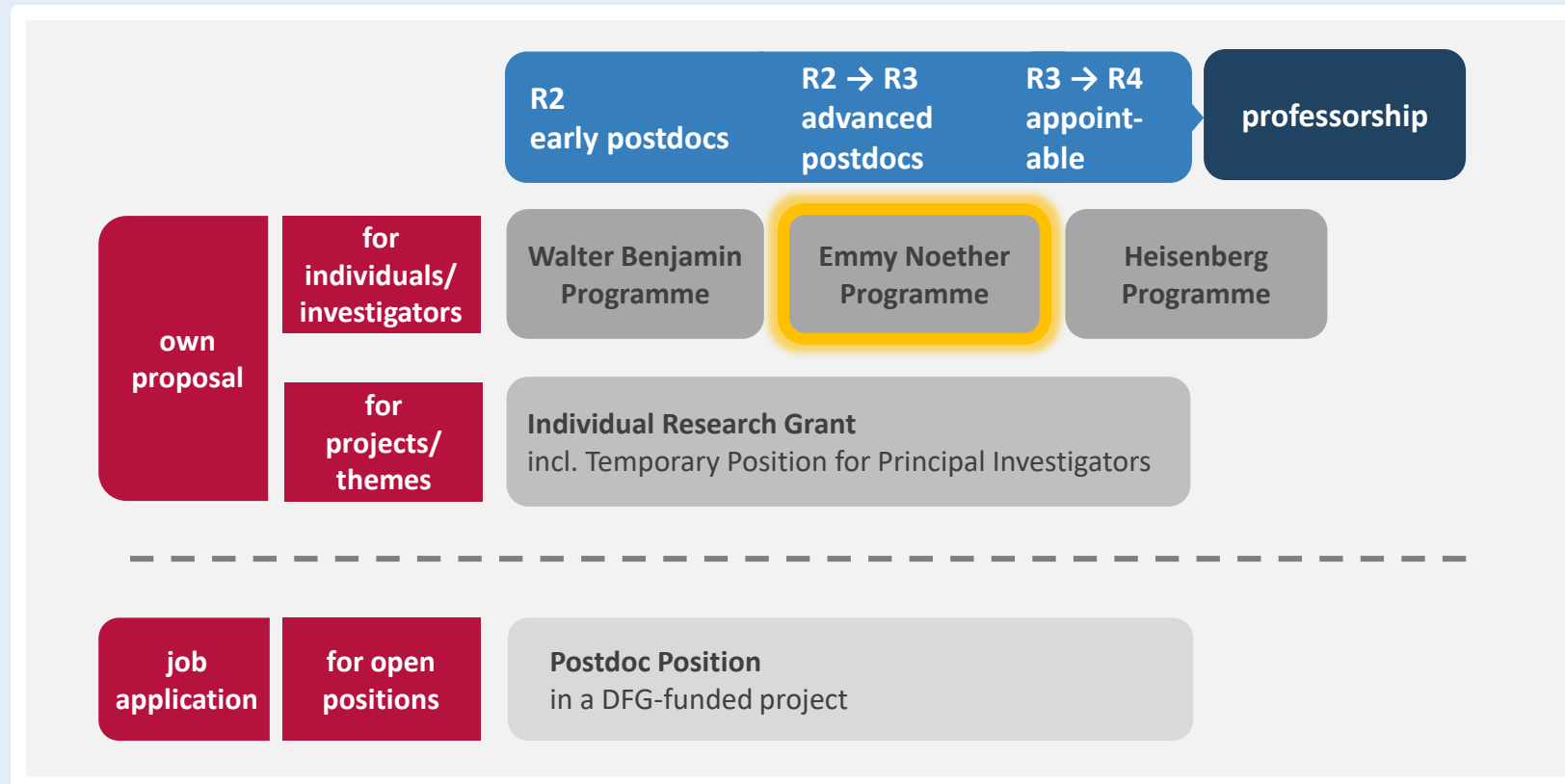
International Destinations for Fellowships* in 2023



* Fellowships in the Walter Benjamin Programme and the Research Fellowships Programme, without Return Fellowships. Fellows can have stays in different countries.

DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/research_careers
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes
https://www.dfg.de/emmy_noether/en





- ▶ Path to early **academic independence**
- ▶ **Eligibility for professorial appointment** by leading one's own **independent junior research group**
- ▶ Career phase R2/R3

Requirements:

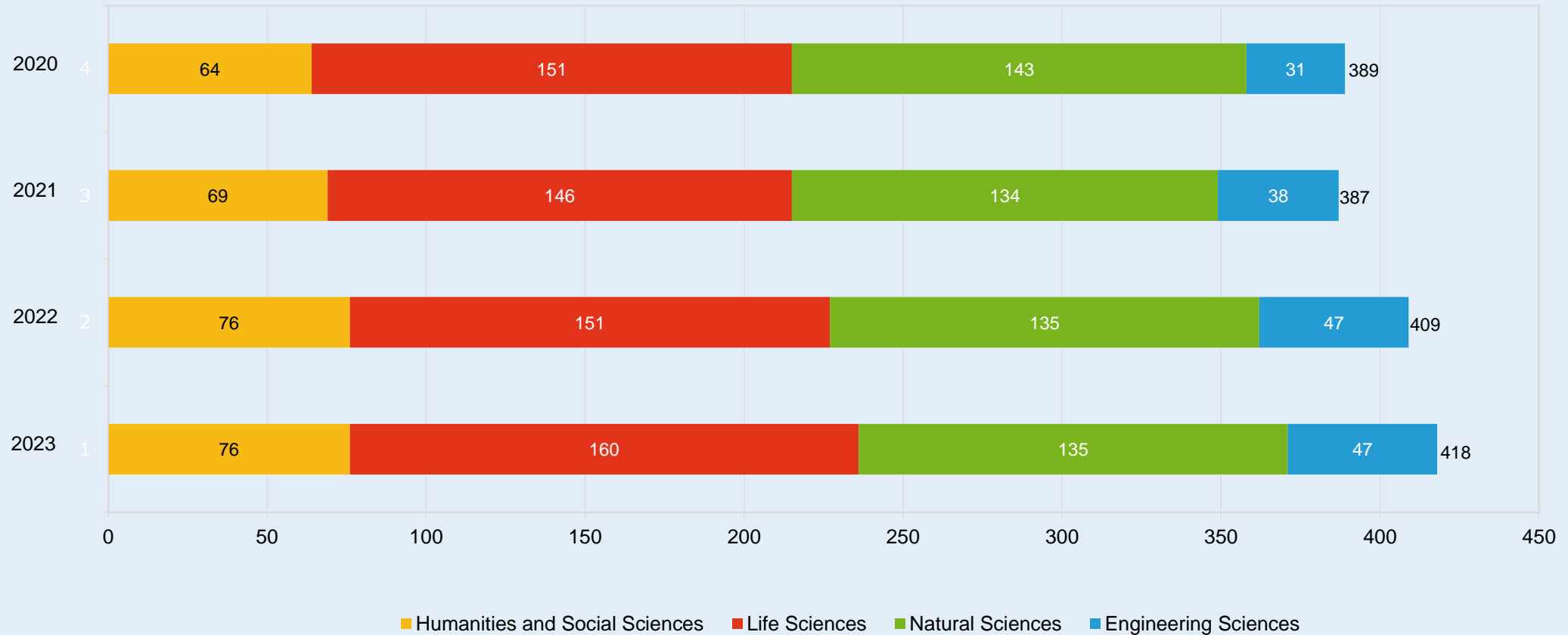
- ▶ For **outstanding** postdoctoral researchers with **2-4 years** of postdoctoral experience
(medicine: up to 6 years; possible extensions for parents)
- ▶ Substantial **international** research experience
- ▶ Excellent research project



- ▶ Funding for **six years**
- ▶ Your host institution **in Germany** becomes your employer
- ▶ **Funding** includes
 - **position:** E15 TVöD/TV-L
(or position for temporary substitutes for clinicians)
 - **project funds**
 - **family allowance** possible
- ▶ Generous funding and your excellence → your status at the host institution should be commensurate

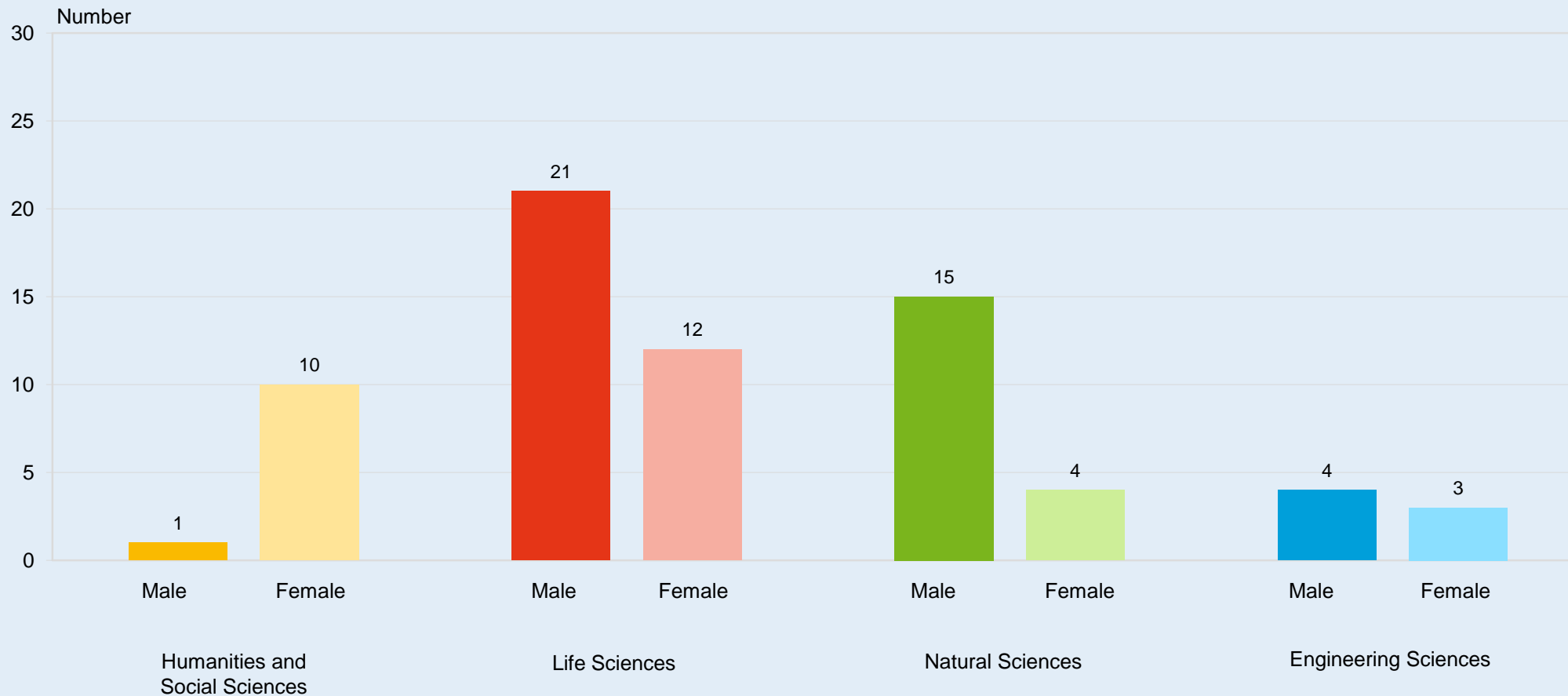
Number of New Emmy Noether Independent Junior Research Groups by Scientific Discipline 2020 to 2023

www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/facts_figures/statistics



New Proposals Approved within the Emmy Noether Programme in 2023, by Scientific Discipline and Gender

www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/facts_figures/statistics



Annual Emmy Noether Meetings

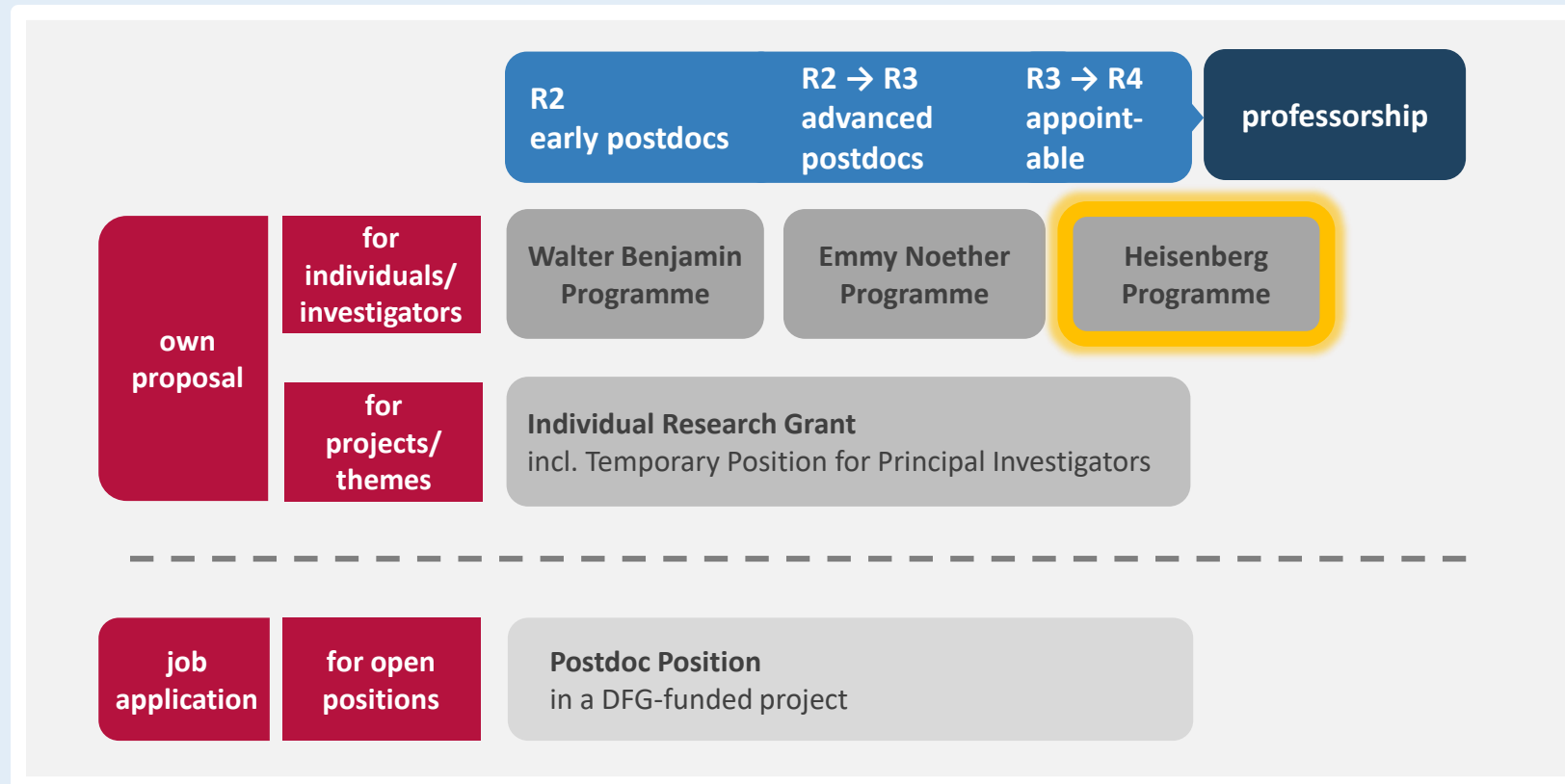
<https://youtu.be/rMw8FHwKcTs>

www.dfg.de/foerderung/programme/einzelfoerderung/emmy_noether/jahrestreffen/2024



DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/research_careers
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes
<https://www.dfg.de/heisenberg/en>





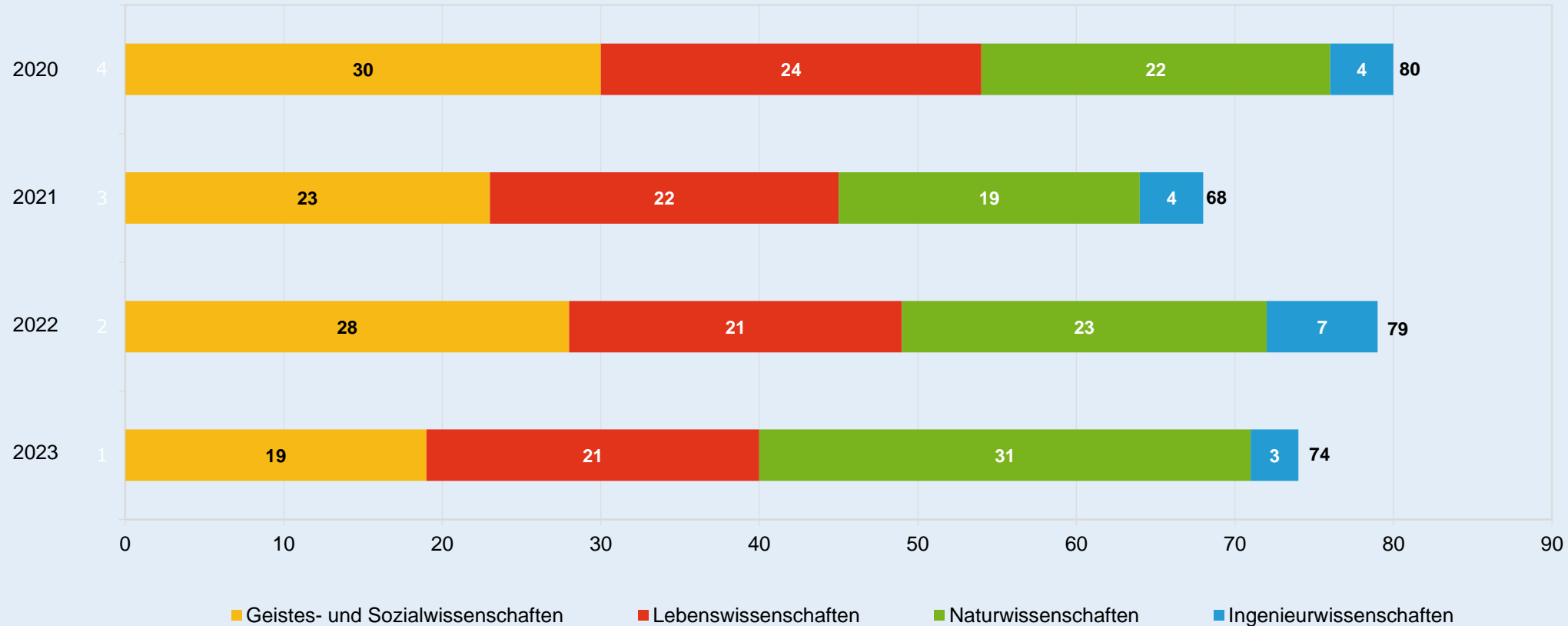
- ▶ Enabling outstanding researchers to prepare for a **senior academic role** while continuing their research work
- ▶ Career phase R3
- ▶ For researchers eligible for **professorial appointment**
- ▶ Funding for **up to five years**
- ▶ In Germany or abroad



- ▶ Flexible choice of **individual funding** after the proposal is approved:
 - Fellowship € 4,450
 - Position E-15 TVöD/TV-L
 - Position for temporary substitutes for clinicians
 - Professorship W2 or W3 → host university must establish permanent professorship
- ▶ Flexible **research funds**: €250 / €1,000 per month
- ▶ Fellowship and positions may be combined with **Research Grant proposal**

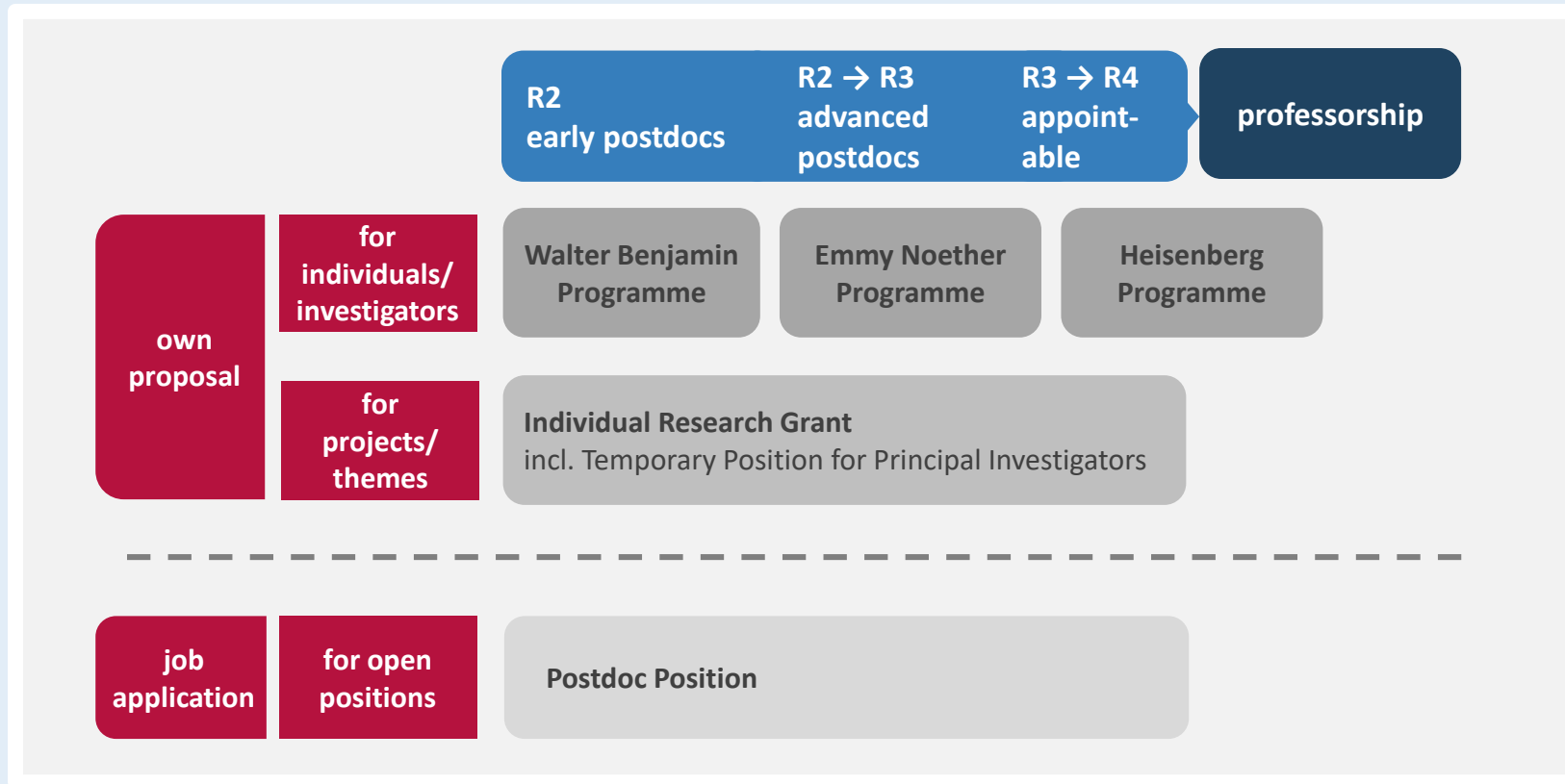
Number of new approved Heisenberg grantees by scientific discipline 2020 to 2023

www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/facts_figures/statistics



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



Topics

1 | The DFG – About Us

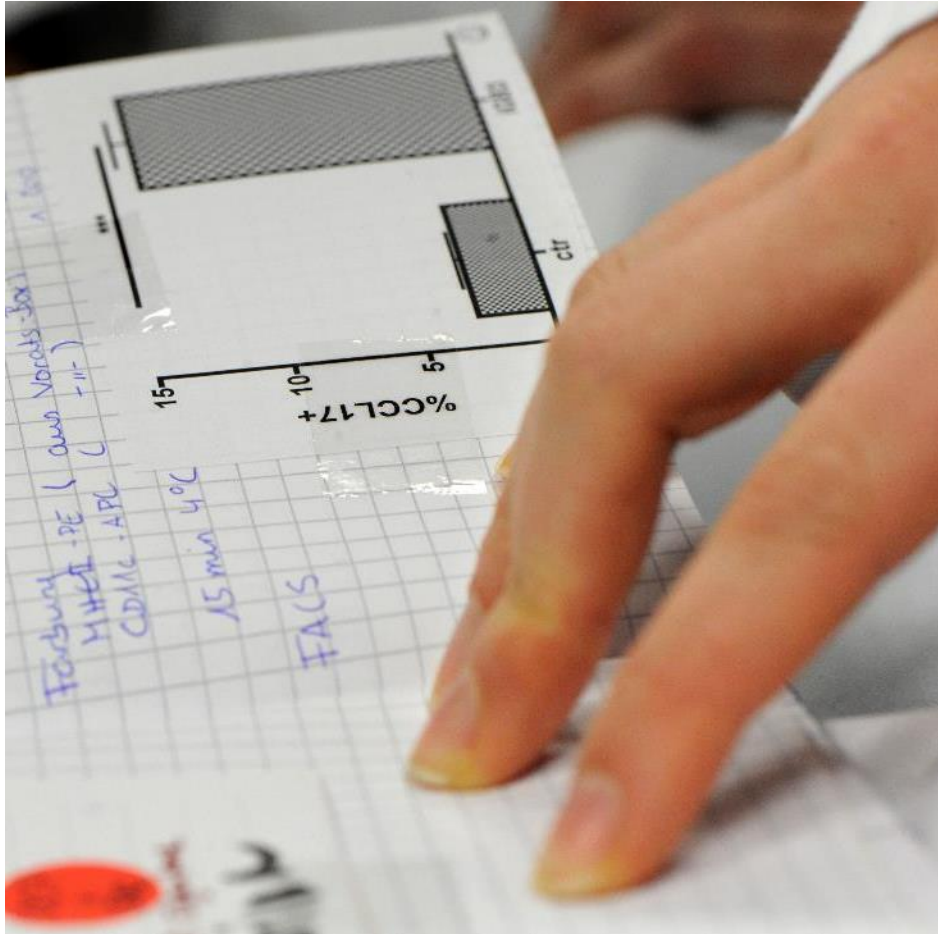
2 | DFG Funding Opportunities

3 | Review Process and Advice

4 | Links and Resources

Preparing Your Proposal

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/tips_proposals
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/proposal_information



- ▶ Start with smaller projects
- ▶ Carefully read and follow the guidelines and proposal instructions
- ▶ Necessary information can be found on the DFG website
- ▶ Questions? Ask for help

DFG Contacts



For questions on **eligibility**:
procedures-researchcareers@dfg.de

For **general questions** on programmes for
research careers:
info-researchcareers@dfg.de

All DFG contacts:
<https://www.dfg.de/en/dfg-profile/head-office>

Preparing Your Proposal

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/tips_proposals
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/proposal_information



- ▶ Put yourself in the reviewers' shoes
- ▶ Seek honest criticism from colleagues
- ▶ Plan on a feasible timeline: on average, the time to decision is over six months

Preparing Your Proposal

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/tips_proposals
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/proposal_information



- ▶ Decide on the proposal language: English or German
- ▶ Inform DFG Head Office in case a conflict of interest or competitive scenario exists
- ▶ Communicate openly with DFG Head Office staff

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



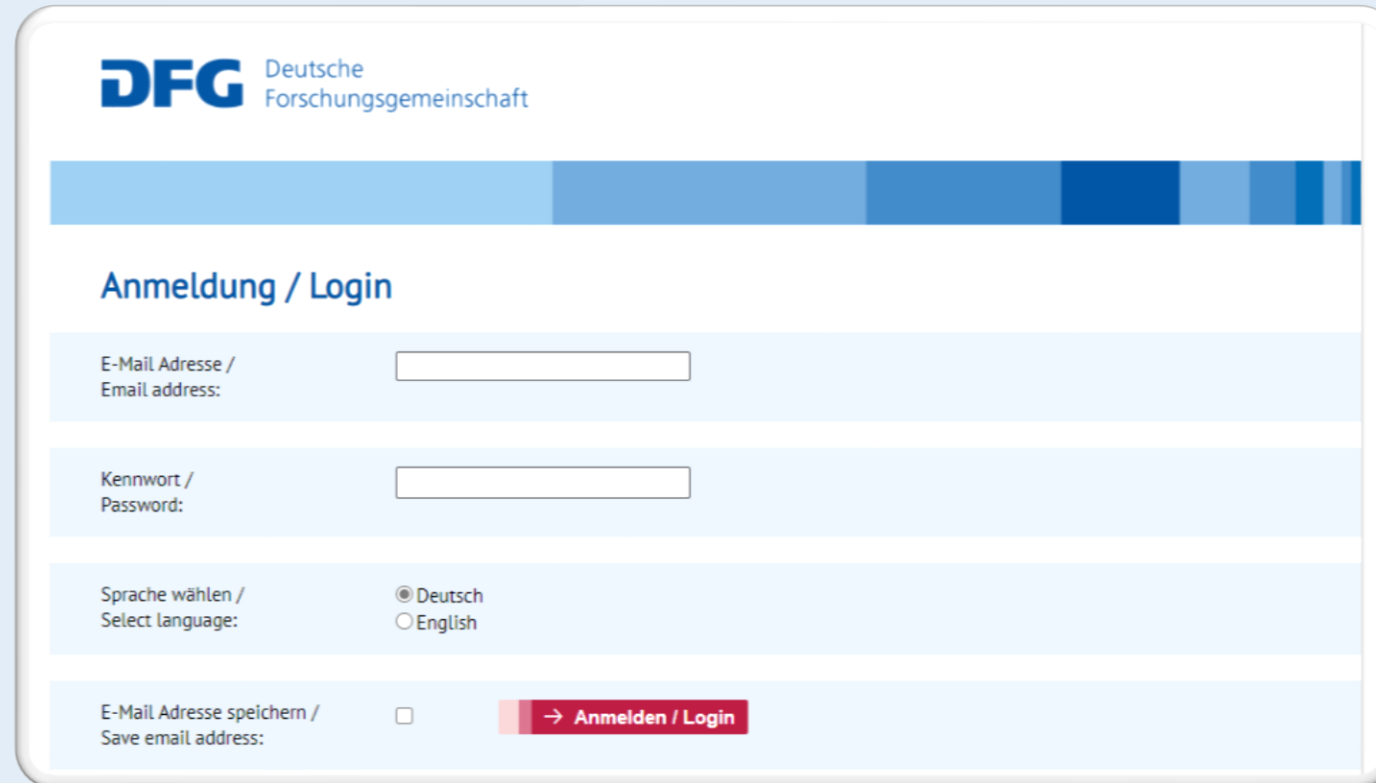
- ▶ DFG CV template
 - Include prizes, fellowships and awards
 - Mention time away from research relating e.g. to family, illness or dependent care; no details required
- ▶ List up to ten of your most important publications

- ▶ No upper limits
- ▶ Needs to be realistic and justified by the project
- ▶ Supplemental, project-specific needs vs. existing resources at the higher education institution
- ▶ Seek advice from other grant applicants, recipients, institutions
- ▶ List of average personnel rates on DFG website
- ▶ Standard Allowance for Equity and Diversity

Submitting Your Proposal via *elan*

<https://elan.dfg.de/my.policy>

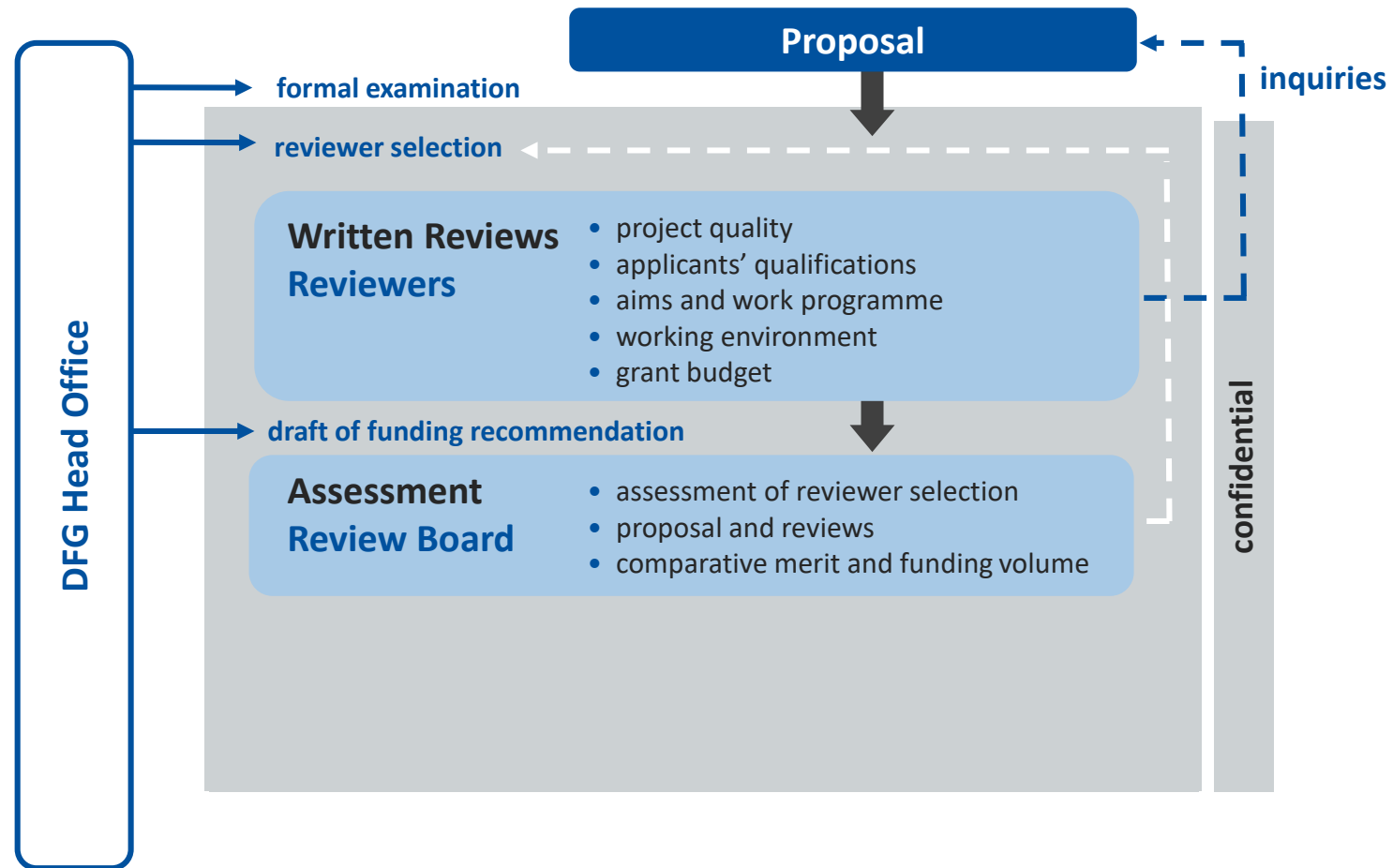
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes/proposal_information



The screenshot shows the login interface for the DFG elan system. At the top left is the DFG logo (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft). Below it is a horizontal bar with a blue gradient. The main heading is "Anmeldung / Login". There are four input fields: "E-Mail Adresse / Email address:", "Kennwort / Password:", "Sprache wählen / Select language:" (with radio buttons for "Deutsch" and "English"), and "E-Mail Adresse speichern / Save email address:" (with a checkbox). A red button labeled "→ Anmelden / Login" is positioned to the right of the checkbox.

Review Process in the Individual Grants Programme

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



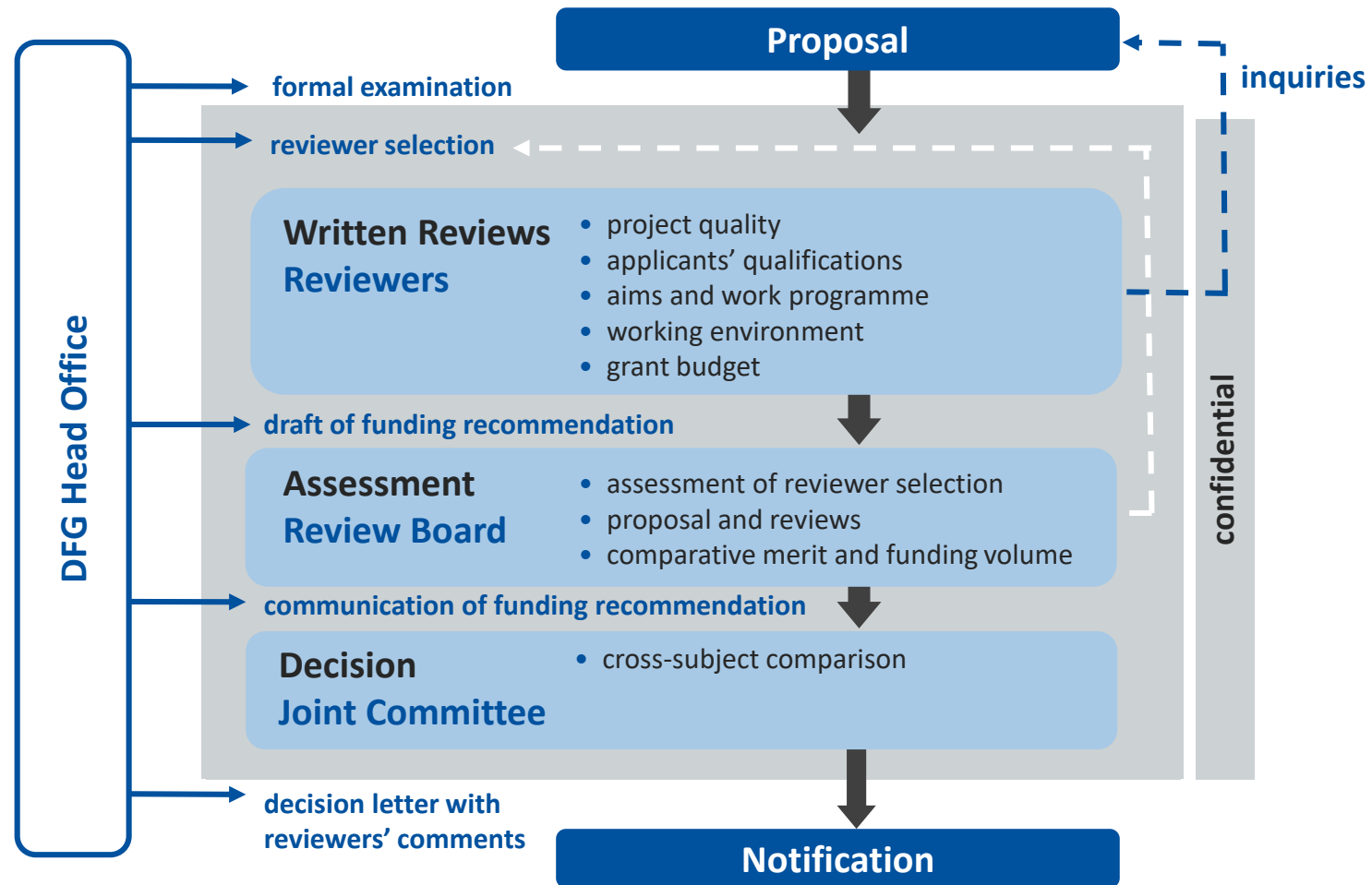
Review Boards (*Fachkollegien*)

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



In Case Your Proposal Is not Successful...

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



- ▶ Don't be discouraged
- ▶ Take the reviewers' comments seriously but not personally
- ▶ Consult the DFG Head Office if you need advice or feel that you have been treated unfairly
- ▶ Consider the reviewer's comments – they might give you some pointers for reworking your proposal



- ▶ Develop your own and independent research profile
- ▶ Publish independently (or with various researchers)
- ▶ Be mobile and find the best environment for your research
- ▶ Build networks of collaboration partners

Topics

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Links and Resources



- ▶ 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
- ▶ Profiles of 25,000 German research institutes: www.gerit.org
- ▶ General questions about research careers: info-researchcareers@dfg.de
- ▶ Questions on eligibility: procedures-researchcareers@dfg.de
- ▶ Contacts: www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/head_office

